

Kathryn Apel is a mother and primary teacher with a passion for words. Her poetry has been published online and in magazines globally. Kat's chapter book 'Fencing with Fear' was released in 2008 as a part of the Aussie! Read! series. Her rhyming picture book 'This is the Mud!' (illustrated by Warren Crossett) was published by Lothian Hachette in 2009 and first read on Play School in 2010.

Playing with Poetry

Poetry is about playing games to paint pictures with words. Writing poetry is fun – but it also benefits other areas of your writing.

Shaping a poem

*the body builder
pumps
flexes
tones and
tautens
as
snip
snap
snip –
the gardener
prunes and shapes
and
whoosh!
the very
clumsy clown
colours the sky
with brightly bobbing
balloons of
thought*

The Body Builder tones up by pumping poetry. Poetry develops control of writing muscles – of words.



The Gardener is a topiary artiste, shaping words into a poem. Each word must shape the poem. Excess words are snipped away.

The Clumsy Clown releases thoughts to, float, fly, drift and swirl like a bunch of brightly bobbing balloons. Poetry lets us get carried away by our imagination.



Not all poetry has to rhyme. Not all poetry has to follow 'rules'.

Some poems *do* rhyme. And some poems *do* follow rules! 😊

Simply Silly Solage

- developed by Australian poet, Cameron M. Semmens.
- three-lined rhyming poem
- first two lines rhyme.
- third line a one-word humorous twist on Lines 1&2 – that doesn't rhyme.
- just remember – it's a joke!

*I don't understand cricket,
with bails on the wicket –
Stumped!*



...oooOOOooo...

Choose a sport. _____

*Brainstorm words that relate to that sport. (Put them **all** down.)*

Look for interesting rhyming combinations – or clever word-play... Highlight them.

Now have a go at your solage. Remember – it's a joke!

The **Limerick** is a snappy little poem to develop good rhyming discipline.

- follows an AABBA *rhyme* scheme.
- Lines 1,2&5 rhyme.
- Lines 3&4 rhyme.
- Lines 1,2&5 should have the same number of syllables.
- Lines 3&4 will be less of the same.

You really should *count the syllables* and make sure you have the *rhythm* right.



_____ *There once was a young shepherd bloke*
_____ *who liked to cry 'Wolf!' for a joke.*
_____ *But one day, in great terror,*
_____ *he discovered his error.*
_____ *The **wolf** came – but **not** other folk.*

...oooOOOooo...

Try your own Limerick about a lass – or lad – from Brissie.

Words that rhyme with Brissie;
busy, dizzy, Izzy, Lizzie, fizzy, tizzy

A _____

A _____

B _____

B _____

A _____