

# POETRY UNIT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

“Knoxville, Tennessee,” by Nikki Gioyanni, is a list poem.

I always like summer  
best  
you can eat fresh corn  
from daddy’s garden  
and okra  
and greens  
and cabbage  
and lots of  
barbecue  
and buttermilk  
and home made ice cream  
at the church picnic

and listen to  
gospel music  
outside  
at the church  
homecoming  
and go to the mountains with  
your grandmother  
and go barefooted  
and be warm  
all the time  
not only when you go to bed  
and sleep

The assignment is to write a list poem like “Knoxville, Tennessee.” Your poem will list many of the things you like about your favorite season. First, copy the first two lines of the poem. Fill in the blank with your own favorite season.

I always like \_\_\_\_\_ best.

Use the Chart below to organize your ideas.

1. Make a list of foods you like to eat during the season.
2. Name a special time or place, such as a family holiday gathering (during your favorite season).
3. Name a sound of the season that you enjoy. Tell where you hear this sound.
4. Tell about something that you do during the season that you enjoy.

Foods I like to eat	
A special family time or place	
A favorite sound of the season	
An activity I enjoy	

On the reverse side of this page, put together all of the information you have gathered in the form of a poem. You may imitate the way “Knoxville, Tennessee” is written line for line, or you may write a poem in your own style.

To complete the following sentences, think creatively about what life and other elements might have in common.

Samples: Life is like a book because it has a beginning, middle, and end.

Life is like learning to swim because you feel scared when you get in over your head.

Life is like a trip because there are sometimes detours on the way to your destination.

1. Life is like riding a bicycle because...
2. Life is like a test because...
3. Life is like a circus because...
4. Life is like a football game because...
5. Life is like a rainbow because...
6. Life is like a piece of paper because...
7. Life is like a tree because...
8. Life is like ice cream because...
9. Life is like music because...
10. Life is like a library because...

Create two sentences of your own comparing life and other elements not used in the sentences above.

- 1.
- 2.

The following poems are examples of COLOR POEMS. Using the directions following the poem, you will be able to compose your own color poem.

### BLACK

The girl's black hair swaying  
like ocean waves in the night  
and the wind thrashing  
on the beach's black sand.  
-- Jennifer Lee

### RED

A rose, just budded,  
A raindrop splashing on the side  
In lighting; the passionate color  
it owns already.  
-- Spencer Goodwin

### Directions for writing a color poem:

1. **USE THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAPER** for all your listings and writing.
2. **PICK A COLOR**, your favorite (or one you dislike) or look around the room and write down the first color that catches your eye. Write down the color.
3. **MAKE A LIST OF THINGS** (Nouns) which are the color you picked. Things at home, here in the room, on the way to school, things you want, like, dislike, etc. (At least five words)
4. **CHOOSE DESCRIPTIVE WORDS FOR EACH THING**. Try to describe not just in terms of sight, but **ALSO** sound, touch smell, and taste. List **TWO** descriptive words for each of the things you have listed above.
5. **HOW DO YOU FEEL** about EACH of the things you have picked. Try to use words besides happy, sad, good, or bad. List at least **TWO** feelings or phrases that you associate with each thing.
6. **LOOK AT ALL THE WORDS** you have come up with. Pick some out and make a **SENTENCE** of them. Do they suggest a **STORY**? A **PLACE**? A **MEMORY**? Write down your sentence, story, place, or memory.
7. **WRITE A POEM**, using words and ideas from this exercise. Be descriptive! Use action words! Write it in poetry format.
8. **REVISE** your poem. **SEE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE:**

#### First Draft

It was a snowy day  
my dog ran to a fire hydrant  
to answer the call of nature

#### Revision

On snowy day,  
red fire hydrant  
and an Irish setter  
answering nature's call.

The following poem is a mood poem. Using the directions given following the poem, you will be able to compose your own mood poem. Write in the blank lines provided. BE CREAVTIVE!

### EXAMPLE POEM

I am happy  
**Not** spaced out silly-faced happy  
**Not** delirious with a fever happy  
**Not** happy like a man who has pleasantly lost his memory  
**But just** under the surface of my skin happy  
Glad that life is still mine despite problems  
Glad that I still appreciate a good sunset  
Glad that I am still in love.

**Directions for writing a mood poem:**

1. **State a mood**
2. **Write three things the mood is not (the first two statements begin with “not” and are stated briefly; the third statement begins with “not” and is a comparison using “like.”)**
3. **Switch the statement of what the mood is.**
4. **State three more descriptions of the mood.**

### MY MOOD POEM

I am \_\_\_\_\_

Not \_\_\_\_\_

Not \_\_\_\_\_

Not \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_

But just \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_

Rewrite the song "My Favorite things." First, brainstorm a list of your favorite things – try to come up with things, which make you unique. Then, fir them into the song according to the number of syllables needed.

(Syllables are noted on the left of each line.) Make the lines rhyme. **DO NOT USE THE SAME WORDS OR IDEAS AS THE ORIGINAL SONG OR THE SAMPLE!!!**

**FORMAT:**

**MY FAVORITE THINGS**  
By Oscar Hammerstein II and \_\_\_\_\_

(11) \_\_\_\_\_

(11) \_\_\_\_\_

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

(10) These are a few of my favorite things.

(11) \_\_\_\_\_

(11) \_\_\_\_\_

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

(10) These are a few of my favorite things.

(11) \_\_\_\_\_

(11) \_\_\_\_\_

(10) \_\_\_\_\_

(10) These are a few of my favorite things.

When the dog bites, when the bee stings,  
When I'm, feeling sad  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

**Sample Song:**

**MY FAVORITE THINGS**  
By Oscar Hammerstein II and Miss Rich's Class

**Snowflakes on toeses and hot fudgy Sundays  
Brown furry hamsters and warm sunny Mondays,  
Candy and toyd that my grandfather brings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.**

**Big fuzzy snowmen and warm April showers,  
Fun happy Christmas and white winter flowers,  
Beautiful bluebirds that fly with their wings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.**

How do you see yourself? The following is an example of an “I am” poem that can show how you view yourself.

**Bubba**  
**Athletic, Sensitive, Intelligent, Attractive**  
**Lover of Football, Flying, Freedom.**  
**Who feels Competitive and Creative.**  
**Who needs Cheerleaders, Championships, and Chocolate Chip Cookies**  
**Who fears Failure and Pain**  
**Who would like to Graduate from high school**  
**Who will some day Travel the world and be a Sportscaster**  
**Boyd**

### **DIRECTIONS FOR CREATING YOUR OWN “I AM” POEM**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. First line   | <u>First name</u>                                     |
| 2. Second Line  | <u>Four adjectives that describe your personality</u> |
| 3. Third line   | <u>Lover of (3 things)</u>                            |
| 4. Fourth line  | <u>Who feels (2 emotions/feeling)</u>                 |
| 5. Fifth line   | <u>Who needs (3 things)</u>                           |
| 6. Sixth line   | <u>Who fears (2 things)</u>                           |
| 7. Seventh line | <u>Who would like to (1 thing/activity)</u>           |
| 8. Eighth line  | <u>Who will someday (2 things/activities)</u>         |
| 9. Ninth line   | <u>Last name</u>                                      |

Be honest, creative, and unique as you come up with the words that describe your personality and hopes. Write your poem below.

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# NAME POEMS

How do you want your friends to think of you? As energetic, terrific, handsome, beautiful, intelligent?

If so, write a poem about yourself and start to believe it! Write your name vertically. Use words beginning with the letters in your name that are the "you" you want people to see and know. If your name were DON, you might write the following:

## *DON #1*

D Dashing  
O Organized  
N Neat

## *DON #2*

Doughnuts (even jelly-filled) cannot tempt me.  
Other kids' parents love to have me to dinner.  
No one can throw a football the way I can.

Now, you try it!

Directions for writing a name poem:

1. Write your first and last name vertically on the bottom and/or reverse side of this sheet of paper.
2. In Poem #1, write a word that tells something about you personally, beginning with each letter in your name.
3. In Poem #2, write your name vertically again. This time, write sentences that begin with the letters of your name.