

2008 Portfolio Scoring Training Materials

Grade 7

Poetry Samples

Note: These poems were referenced in the 2008 training telecast and in the grade 7 training session.

The Creek

The creek is unimaginable
to those reality binds.

filled with creatures
filtering out sunlight
looming in the shadows
hidden among the pines

Wind you can hear
howls above the trees.
whistles its morning song.

Wind you can't hear
speaks to your soul
whispers *you are safe*.

You are alone
in a world made for you.
You become impervious
Your ecstasy is mist
Palpable, unchangeable.

Reality is unable to touch you.
Blades of grass are fish
the shiniest rock, the moon
suspended above in the big, watery sky.

Laws, rules, physics don't apply.
You are beyond existence
above the limit
apart from reality
sanctuary
realm of sheer joy.

Eventually you may leave
return to reality
depart this dream.

Nobody will blame you.
Perfection can be a burden.

Still

Remember the world I've shown you.
Remember the C ~ E ~ K
~ R ~ E ~

The Creek

Purpose - shows an extraordinary perception of the ordinary

narrowed, focused topic

The creek is unimaginable to those reality binds.

insightful idea development

rich, vivid verbs

filled with creatures filtering out sunlight looming in the shadows hidden among the pines

precise language through parallel structure

sensory details

depth of ideas

development

Wind you can hear howls above the trees. whistles its morning song.

rich, vivid verbs

Wind you can't hear speaks to your soul whispers you are safe.

alliteration

personification

You are alone in a world made for you. - precise language impacts the reader

You become impervious - precise language

Your ecstasy is mist - metaphor

Palpable, unchangeable. comma used for effect

insight

Reality is unable to touch you.

Blades of grass are fish - metaphor

the shiniest rock, the moon

suspended above in the big, watery sky. > imagery

Laws, rules, physics don't apply. - precise language

You are beyond existence

above the limit

apart from reality

sanctuary

realm of sheer joy.

rich language

Eventually you may leave

return to reality

depart this dream. > alliteration

Nobody will blame you.

Perfection can be a burden. - evidence of insight and reflection

metaphor

Still

effective use of white space

Remember the world I've shown you.

Remember the C ~ E ~ K

~ R ~ E ~

> use of shapes (flowing of the creek)

effective repetitions

Poetry Rationale

Grade: 7

Title: The Creek

This rationale was written based on the criteria in the document, "Applying the Criteria of Effective Writings to Poetry."

Content

Audience/Purpose

The writer shows an extraordinary perception of the ordinary. In the first two lines the writer notes that those without imagination do not see the creek as it really is. Use of second person demonstrates audience awareness.

Idea Development/ Support

The writing demonstrates evidence of insight and reflection (e.g., "Perfection can be a burden" and "Your ecstasy is mist"). Poetic devices such as metaphors, personification and imagery are used throughout. The writer sets a scene with description in the first few stanzas, then creates the mood in the last few stanzas.

Structure

Organization

The writer maintains coherence and unity by focusing on the creek and how it makes you feel. The writer arranges the poem into stanzas, effectively utilizing line breaks, white space (the isolation of the word "still") and shape (the placement of the letters in the word creek to illustrate the flowing of the creek).

Sentences

The writer effectively uses line breaks and stanzas creating rhythm. Fragments were used to enhance the purpose.

Conventions

Language

The writer uses language that is precise (“Laws, rules, physics don’t apply.”) and rich (“sanctuary/realm of sheer joy.”), which impacts the reader. Many examples of strong verbs, precise nouns and figurative language can be found throughout.

Correctness

The writer uses correct spelling and capitalization or deviates for effect (The beginning of each line is not capitalized.). End punctuation and apostrophes are used correctly. Commas are placed sparingly for effect. The writer departs legitimately from the standard correctness to enhance the meaning in the second stanza by using a series of phrases. This helps create rhythm. Another example is the use of the word “Still” with no punctuation.

Rainbows

Rainbows are a colorful slide.
They entice our imagination.
Enchanting!
Shining brightly overhead,
Rainbows are like a big bowl of Fruit Loops.
"Oh rainbows, how wonderful you are!"

Rainbows are a box of crayons.
They illustrate the beauty on Earth.
Breathtaking!
Decorating the sky with vivid colors,
Rainbows are like a pack of Skittles.
"Oh rainbows, how colorful you are!"

Rainbows are a meadow of flowers.
They paint a scenery of bright colors.
Colorful!
Outlining the heaven's above,
Rainbows are like a bouquet of roses.
"Oh rainbows, how beautiful you are!"

Rainbows are brightly colored leaves in the autumn.
They compliment nature with vibrant colors.
Elegant!
Mesmerizing our minds with a pleasant view,
Rainbows are like a giant arch stretching throughout the sky.
"Oh rainbows, how delightful you are!"

Rainbows - general topic

strong verbs

Rainbows are a colorful slide. - metaphor
They entice our imagination.
Enchanting! - use of white space
Shining brightly overhead, - alliteration
Rainbows are like a big bowl of Fruit Loops. - simile
"Oh rainbows, how wonderful you are!" - correct punctuation

Rainbows are a box of crayons. - metaphor
They illustrate the beauty on Earth.
Breathtaking!
Decorating the sky with vivid colors,
Rainbows are like a pack of Skittles. - simile
"Oh rainbows, how colorful you are!"

Rainbows are a meadow of flowers. - metaphor
They paint a scenery of bright colors.
Colorful!
Outlining the heaven's above,
Rainbows are like a bouquet of roses. - simile
"Oh rainbows, how beautiful you are!"

strong verbs

alliteration

assonance

Rainbows are brightly colored leaves in the autumn. - metaphor
They compliment nature with vibrant colors.
Elegant!
Mesmerizing our minds with a pleasant view,
Rainbows are like a giant arch stretching throughout the sky. - simile
"Oh rainbows, how delightful you are!"

Conventions of poetry: stanzas, white space,
line breaks

Repetitious use of metaphors and similes is not effective

Poetry Rationale

Grade: 7

Title: Rainbows

This rationale was written based on the criteria in the document, "Applying the Criteria of Effective Writings to Poetry."

Content

Audience/Purpose

While the writer attempts to narrow the topic to rainbows, the writing is mainly a list. There is not a focused purpose. The writer does use some conventions of poetry (stanzas, white space, and line breaks), but those are not always used effectively. For example, even though stanzas are used, the focused purpose is not maintained even within those stanzas.

Idea Development/ Support

The lack of purpose is problematic. Metaphors are overused and ineffective. No mood, scene or image is created for the reader. There is no evidence of insight or reflection.

Structure

Organization

While each stanza is about rainbows, the lack of purpose prevents the writer from creating a sense of coherence and unity. There are few places where the writer uses white space (e.g., emphasis of word "Enchanting!" on a single line) but overall white space and line breaks are not effective. Each stanza has the same structure, which does not enhance the meaning.

Sentences

Due to the ineffective use of line breaks, there is no rhythm or melody. There are many complete sentences.

Conventions

Language

The writer uses some strong verbs (“entice,” “illustrate,” “mesmerizing,” etc.). Similes and metaphors are used throughout.

Correctness

Spelling is correct. The writer capitalized the first word of every line instead of making deliberate choices. The writer also placed punctuation at the end of every line rather than using punctuation for effect.