
Year 5 Poetry Unit Planning

Diamante • Haiku • Tanka • Cinquain • Imagery & Metaphor • Cultural & Heritage Poems

This unit builds control of poetic form, imagery, metaphor and voice. Each poem type is taught over a short series with explicit teacher modelling and narration.

Poem Type 1: Diamante Poems (2 lessons)

Focus: precise vocabulary, contrast, structure and meaning.

Lesson 1: Understanding Diamante Structure

Learning Objective: To understand the structure and purpose of a diamante poem.

Teacher Instruction / Narration

Today we are learning about a structured poem called a diamante.

A diamante poem is shaped like a diamond and each line has a specific job.

As writers, we must choose vocabulary carefully so the poem flows and the meaning shifts clearly.

Teach Explicitly - Structure

- Line 1: noun
- Line 2: two adjectives
- Line 3: three -ing verbs
- Line 4: two nouns (link or contrast)
- Line 5: three -ing verbs
- Line 6: two adjectives
- Line 7: noun (contrast)

WAGOLL (Teacher Model)

Fire

Hot, bright

Crackling, roaring, burning

Flames, destruction

Cooling, shrinking, fading

Quiet, dark

Ash

Learning Tasks

- WE DO: Build a shared diamante (Day → Night).
- YOU DO: Draft a diamante using a contrasting noun pair.

Lesson 2: Refining and Publishing Diamante Poems

Learning Objective: To refine word choice and publish a diamante poem.

Editing Focus (Model)

weak → precise vocabulary (e.g., quiet → deathly quiet).

Independent Task

- Replace at least three weak words.
- Publish the poem clearly in a diamond shape.

Poem Type 2: Haiku Poems (2 lessons)

Focus: syllable control, imagery, precision.

Lesson 3: Haiku – Brevity and Imagery

Learning Objective: To use syllable count and imagery to write a haiku.

Teacher Narration

Haiku poets say a lot using very few words.

Every syllable matters, so we must be precise.

WAGOLL

Winter morning sky

Breath floats in the frozen air

Silence before bells

Tasks

- WE DO: Build one class haiku together.
- YOU DO: Draft a haiku using a nature theme.

Lesson 4: Polishing Haiku

Learning Objective: To refine imagery and syllable accuracy.

Editing Focus

edit imagery (e.g., cold air → frozen air).

Independent Task

- Edit syllables accurately.
- Publish final haiku neatly.

Poem Type 3: Tanka Poems (2 lessons)

Focus: emotional reflection and extension of haiku.

Lesson 5: Understanding Tanka

Learning Objective: To write a tanka using reflection.

Teacher Narration

A tanka begins like a haiku but ends with emotion or reflection.

WAGOLL

Rain taps windows

Grey clouds fold over the town

School bags crowd the hall

Laughing voices chase the gloom

Warmth returns with every step

Tasks

- WE DO: Build first three lines together.
- YOU DO: Add reflective ending.

Lesson 6: Refining Tanka

Learning Objective: To deepen emotional impact.

- Edit vocabulary for mood.
- Add metaphor in final two lines.

Poem Type 4: Cinquain Poems (1-2 lessons)

Focus: economy of language and structure.

Lesson 7: Writing Cinquains

- Line 1: noun
- Line 2: two adjectives
- Line 3: three -ing verbs
- Line 4: four-word phrase
- Line 5: summary noun

WAGOLL

Ocean

Vast, restless

Crashing, surging, pulling

Secrets beneath waves

Mystery

Poem Type 5: Imagery and Metaphor Poems (2 lessons)

Focus: figurative language and extended metaphor.

Lesson 8: Exploring Metaphor

Learning Objective: To use metaphor to deepen meaning.

WAGOLL

The classroom is a beehive,

Ideas buzzing nonstop.

- WE DO: Turn simple sentences into metaphors.
- YOU DO: Draft metaphor-based images.

Lesson 9: Writing Imagery Poems

- Write a free-verse poem using metaphor and sensory detail.
- Challenge: extended metaphor throughout.

Poem Type 6: Cultural and Heritage Poems (2 lessons)

Focus: identity, place, shared experiences.

Lesson 10: Poetry and Identity

Learning Objective: To explore poetry as a way to express identity.

Model Opening

I am from warm kitchens and loud laughter,

From spice jars and Sunday tables.

- WE DO: Build shared class poem.
- YOU DO: Write personal or imagined heritage poem.

Lesson 11: Refining Cultural Poems

- Add repetition or refrain.
- Publish and present poem respectfully.