



SCOUT ELF SCHOOL™



Lessons from Scout Elf School:

Polar Poetry



At Scout Elf School, sometimes the elves speak in rhyme just for fun! They love trying out words in the “poet-tree” to see if they can create poems that sing—and hopefully that make their families giggle! In this activity, students will explore their feelings and thoughts about winter. They will think about how winter makes them feel and what images come to mind when they think of this chilly season.

Activity Guide

Pre-Poetry

Tell students that preparing to write poetry is like walking outside and gathering the pretties leaves to make a collage. Ask them to write down their answers as you lead them through any of the following prompts:

1. Feelings and Imagery

- What words come to mind when you think of winter? Write down at least five words.
- How does winter make you feel? Write about a time you felt happy, sad, or excited during winter. What happened?

2. Nature and Environment

- Describe a winter scene. What do you see, hear, and smell? Use your senses to paint a picture with your words.
- If you could be any winter animal, what would you be and why? Describe your day in the life of that animal during winter.

3. Rhythmic Thoughts

- Think of a winter activity you love (like building a snowman or drinking hot cocoa). Write down some rhyming words or rhythmic phrases that relate to winter (like snow/glow; cold/bold or phrases like “Scrunch, crunch, make a snowball.”)

4. Predictive Thinking

- Imagine what winter will be like in the future. Will it change? How might people celebrate winter differently?
- Write a few sentences about your predictions.

5. Alternative Scenarios

- If you could create a new winter holiday, what would it be? Describe the holiday, how it’s celebrated, and what special things would happen.
- Imagine the North Pole without snow. How would that change things? Write about what you think the North Pole would be like and how it would feel.



Conclusion

Have students use the printable poem activity sheet to create a poem from some of the words, phrases and ideas that they wrote down. Encourage students to reflect on what they've written and share their poem with the class. This activity allows them to express their creativity while connecting with the themes of winter.

Before students write their poems, remind them what the Scout Elves learned about poetry in the video:

Remember the Scout Elf Rules for Polar Poetry

1. **Rhythm:** Think about how your poem will sound. Will it have a steady beat like the rhythm of snowflakes falling? Try to make your words flow in a fun, musical way.
2. **Rhyme:** Use rhyming words to make your poem sing! Find pairs of words that sound the same at the end, like "snow" and "glow" or "ice" and "nice."
3. **JUST RIGHT Words:** Choose words that perfectly fit the feeling you want to create. Imagine you're picking the most beautiful snowflake from a whole blizzard of choices.

Poetry Prompt:

Write a winter-themed poem about a magical day in the snow. Describe the chilly air, the glistening snowflakes, and the fun you have in the winter wonderland. Use rhythm to make your poem dance, rhyme to make it sing, and pick JUST RIGHT words to paint the perfect snowy scene.