

Halloween Poems [for Students]

You will have seen one or more examples of a *Halloween* poem or composed your own as a class. The main idea of these is to explore using rhymes at the **beginning** of lines.

The models provided include 12 lines, with the first and last rhyming, and the remaining 10 lines begin with rhyming couplets: that's six pairs of rhymes in all!

Start

To begin, you'll need to choose a subject. If you are writing a *Halloween* poem, you'll want to select a creature or thing associated with this theme [*pumpkin* is hard to rhyme, apart from *bumpkin*, so you might give this a miss!].

It's a good idea to build up a rhyme-bank of words linked to your chosen subject. Here are some examples if you choose **Ghost** as your subject:

- host
- most
- roast
- toast

Think about the various ways these words could be used:

Roast could be very appropriate to a scary poem about Halloween!

Host can be used as a noun or a verb: it can be the host [noun] that welcomes you to its Halloween party with frightening greetings, or it can host [verb] hauntings as its night-time job because by day it's a teacher! There's not a huge difference in the grammatical use here, but it can be with other words, like *toast*, but that's not so useful when linked to a ghost!

Most gives you the chance to give your ghost a characteristic without having to rhyme, so it's a useful cheat, for example

this _____
ghost who is the
most _____

Other words in your rhyme-bank will be linked to what ghosts look like and do. Here are some more examples:

- white
- fright
- boo
- flew

and so on [it's your turn to do some work!].

Writing

Play with lines/sentences that put your rhyming words at the beginning before trying to write your whole and complete poem. As you do this, new rhymes and ideas will come to you. Have a story line in mind when you start, or see where the lines take you.

Editing

The best writing is worked at, altered and perfected. When you have a first draft, look at ways of improving the flow of your lines or its descriptive quality.

For example, if we go back to our 'Ghost' example, here are first and second versions:

1.
*this huge
 ghost who is the
 most scary and...*

2.
*this floating
 ghost who reeks the
 most obnoxious...*

Get Started

*So stop
 smirking and get your poetic mind
 working at enjoying the
 composing of your
 decomposing Halloween [or other] poem.....*