

“Poetree”

Study a tree with all the senses to inspire creative poems

9-12

Writing



First hand experiences of source material support more **creative writing** and this is now supported by research from the University of Curtin. They have evidenced the fact that a child’s **vocabulary** is enriched if they have the sensory stimulation of the real features to which they can respond.

Carrying out this activity at different times of the year and creating wall displays with contributions from different groups, allows an exploration of how trees change through the seasons enabling linkages with **science**.

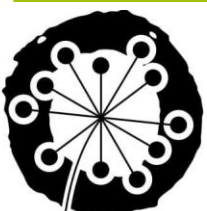
Use other natural stimuli to promote poetry such as clouds, wind or rain, or nearby physical landscape

Equipment

- An area with trees
- Chalk, paper, pencils and string
- Mats to sit/lie on
- Printed prompt cards (optional)

Activity

1. Groups of four children choose a tree and use their senses to experience the tree as a whole.
2. Collect a leaf from their tree and think about its different aspects such as shape, texture, smell and the sound it might make.
3. Chalk the shape of their leaf onto the tarmac, and write inside the leaf outline the words for each of the aspects of the leaf to make a simple calligram poem.
4. Return to the tree and have each child in the group assume a different position:
 - Lying on the ground looking at the branches
 - Kneeling with your nose to the bark
 - Sitting with your back to the trunk
 - Standing looking at the canopy
5. Each member of the group independently creates a line of poetry inspired by their tree. They can write their line on a piece of paper and hang it from the tree or do a collective, spontaneous performance to witness the organic poem formed from their four individual lines.



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Lie on the ground and look up through the branches and create a simile starting:

With branches as...



Stand/kneel with your nose touching the bark and create a simile starting:

With bark as...



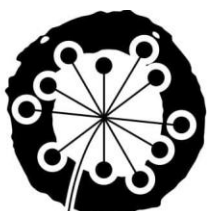
Sit with your back to the trunk, facing away and create a simile starting:

With roots as...



Stand beyond the reach of the canopy of the tree and create a simile starting:

With leaves as...



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