

## Grade 6 English Language Arts

Week of January 18 – January 22

### Lesson 2: How Do you Know It's a Poem?

How do you know it's a poem?

Some poems have structure and some do not. Sometimes, a poem is divided into verses called stanzas. The following poem has 3 stanzas – each in a blue box. Notice the space (break) between the stanzas. That is how the reader knows one stanza is ending and another beginning. (Read the poem aloud. It is quite funny!)

## **I Rode a Rainbow Unicorn**

### *A Funny Unicorn Poem for Kids*

I rode a rainbow unicorn.  
We sailed across the sky.  
(I'd fed him lots of Skittles,  
since they always make him fly.)

We took off like a comet  
on a long and graceful flight.  
And everywhere the people stopped  
and marveled at the sight.

His path was bright and colorful.  
It sparkled, shimmered, shined,  
as he arced across the heavens  
shooting rainbows from behind.

--Kenn Nesbitt



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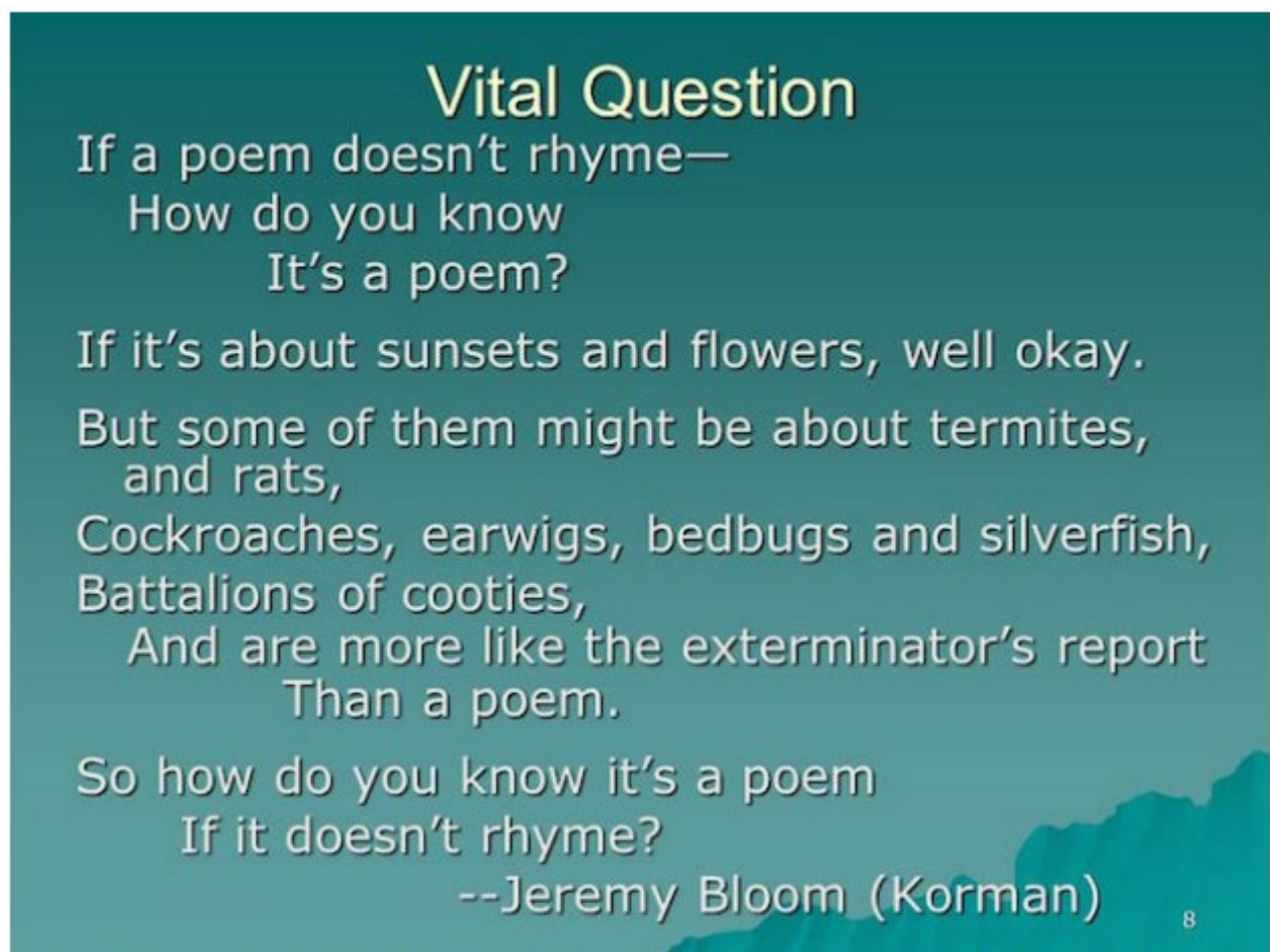
As you work through this lesson, you will read the following collection of poems about poems. Yes, you read that correctly - poems about poems! After each one, you will complete the responses for How Do You Know It's A Poem? in your Learning Guide, then return to this lesson. First, open the poems. Then follow along in this lesson with the reading and responses.

## Three Poems About Poems

Answer the question in complete sentences. As always, after you've written your response, check it over to make sure it makes sense and is in complete sentences with your best capitals, usage (grammar), punctuation, and spelling.

### 1. Jeremy Bloom - Vital Question:

The first poem, *Vital*, is from a book by Gordon Korman in which a character named Jeremy Bloom mistakenly signs up for poetry class. Jeremy tackles the task of writing about homework, cleaning his room, measly allowances, and more.



(Excerpt from: Korman, G., & Korman, B. (1992). *The D- poems of Jeremy Bloom: A collection of poems about school, homework, and life (sort of)*. New York: Scholastic.)

1. Does the poem rhyme? (Yes or No)

2. How many stanzas does it have? (Point form)

3. What is your favourite phrase? (Sentence)

4. Make a connection. What similar questions do you have about poetry? Can you answer the vital question? (Complete sentences)

## 2. What's a Poem?

Charles Ghigna, also known as "Father Goose" has written and published more than 100 books!

According to Charles Ghigna:

"You are a poet whenever you tell the world who you are, what you think, and how you feel. Finding poetry in the world and sharing it makes us all feel alive. It fills us with hope and wonder. It celebrates life. It shines light into the corners of the world and turns the overlooked and the common into little gems to behold. Poetry is everywhere! It's in the smile of a friend and in the sound of the wind. It's in the scent of the meadow and in the skyline of the city. It's in the setting sun as she pulls her purple curtain across the backdrop of the world. Poetry is music, theater, dance, art and literature. Poetry is winter, spring, summer, and fall. Poetry is laughter and tears, faith and fears. Poetry is life!" (Source: <http://charlesghigna.blogspot.ca/2010/07/poem-is-little-path-poems-about-poetry.html>)

### **What's A Poem?**

A whisper,  
a shout,  
thoughts turned  
inside out.  
A laugh,  
a sigh,  
an echo  
passing by.  
A rhythm,  
a rhyme,  
a moment  
caught in time.  
A moon,  
a star,  
a glimpse  
of who you are.

(Source: <https://charlesghigna.blogspot.ca/2010/07/poem-is-little-path-poems-about-poetry.html>)

1. a) According to Charles Ghigna, finding and sharing poetry does what?

(Give two examples of the ideas.)

b) Do you agree? Explain. (Complete sentence.)

2. According to Charles Ghigna, three places can you find poetry include:

(point form)

3. Does the poem rhyme? (Yes or No)

### 3. Inside a Poem

Author Eve Merriam wrote picture books and a number of books of poetry for children. Did you know you could win awards for poetry? In 1981, Eve Merriam was named the winner of an Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children.

Think about the following questions as you read, Inside a Poem.

Do poems have to rhyme?

Do they have a beat?

Can you feel poetry?

What phrases stand out?

#### **Inside a Poem**

It doesn't always have to rhyme,  
but there's the repeat of a beat, somewhere  
an inner chime that makes you want to  
tap your feet or swerve in a curve;  
a lilt, a leap, a lightening-split--  
thunderstruck the consonants jut,  
while the vowels open wide as waves in the  
noon-blue sea.

You hear with your heels, your eyes feel  
what they never touched before:  
fins on a bird, feathers on a deer;  
taste all colours, inhale  
memory and tomorrow and always the tang  
is today.

(Source: Merriam, E. (1967). An Invitation to Poetry. Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley.)

1. Does the poem rhyme? (Yes or No)

2. How many stanzas does it have? (Point form)

3. What does the author say about rhyming? Do poems have to rhyme?  
(Complete sentences.)