

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 1



Things your child will need

Have these things available so your child can complete this task.

Ideal

- [Alliteration Part 1 video](#)
- Activity sheet 1: Tongue twisters
- Activity sheet 2: I don't want a pet snake
- Activity sheet 3: Ice cream flavours
- Pens and highlighters

Backup

- Printed version of the [Alliteration Part 1 Powerpoint presentation](#)
- Paper

Before your child starts

What are literary devices?

This lesson is the first in a series of 2 lessons about the literary device alliteration. Literary devices are used in texts to connect with the reader and convey meaning. As your child reads they are beginning to recognise simple literary devices used by authors. Your child is also beginning to learn how to explain why the author has used the device. In narratives or stories, authors might use literary devices such as personification, similes, alliteration, onomatopoeia and imagery to engage the reader and allow them to visualise the setting and characters.

What is alliteration?

Your child will learn that alliteration is when a consonant sound is repeated in close succession. The repeated sound is usually found at the beginning of the words. In 'ripe, red raspberry', the repetition of the 'r' sound creates a rich sound effect and helps the reader visualise the fruit.

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 1

What your child needs to do

Your child will watch the Alliteration Part 1 video. The teacher will guide your child as they learn how to identify, explain and use alliteration in a text. Throughout the lesson, your child will be asked to pause the video to complete an activity on the activity sheets for the lesson.

By the end of the lesson, your child will have activities to support them to be able to meet the criteria below:

- I can explain what alliteration is
- I can find examples of alliteration in texts
- I can explain why an author might use alliteration
- I can create my own examples of alliteration.

What your child can do next

Your child will watch the video and pause throughout to complete the following activities:

- Activity sheet 1: Tongue twisters
- Activity sheet 2: I don't want a pet snake
- Activity sheet 3: Ice cream flavours

Options for your child**Activity too hard?**

Work with your child to create simple 2 or 3 word alliterative phrases such as 'slippery snakes slither'. Your child might then put this into a sentence and illustrate.

Activity too easy?

Research other poems and compare them with I Don't Want a Pet SNAKE. Do many other poems use alliteration? What other sorts of literary devices do poets regularly use? Research simile, metaphor and analogy. What examples of those devices can your child find?

Extension/Additional activity

There are lots of alliteration examples in advertising and product names. Your child might like to hunt for examples of alliteration in magazines, in catalogues and on television advertisements.

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 1

Activity sheet 1: Tongue twisters

Instructions

1. Read the following tongue twisters.
2. Highlight the examples of alliteration in the tongue twisters.
3. Write a sentence to explain what alliteration is.
4. Choose one of the tongue twisters to practise over the next few days. How fast can you say it 10 times in a row?
 - Three thin thinkers thinking thick thoughtful thoughts
 - Blue bluebird
 - Which witch is which?
 - Round the rough and rugged rock, the ragged rascal rudely ran
 - She sells seashells by the seashore
 - Betty Botter bought some butter
 - But she said the butter's bitter
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter
But a bit of better butter will make my batter better
So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter
 - Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

Alliteration is:**Challenge**

Research some more tongue twisters and challenge your family and friends to a tongue twister competition. Can you write your own tongue twister?

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 1

Activity sheet 2: I don't want a pet SNAKE

Instructions

1. Read the poem.
2. Highlight the examples of alliteration in the poem.
3. Write a sentence to explain why you think the author might have used this alliteration.



I Don't Want a Pet SNAKE

poem by Kathryn Apel, illustrated by Christopher Nielsen

Snakes slither and make me shiver.
 They squeeze too tight,
 have a dangerous bite,
 and sleep in winter, day ... and night.
 If there's one thing I would NEVER do
 it's keep a snake as a pet—would you?
 Snakes aren't cosy like a kitty,
 curled and furry-purry pretty.
 They twist and tie you up in turns
 then squeeze you tight—like Chinese burns.
 In winter, snakes are always ssssnoozing. (Yawn)
 They're much too cool to be amusing!
 I want a pet that likes to run.
 A pouncing pup is much more fun!
 What if my pet snake bit ME?
 I'm sure that you would all agree
 that it would be a tragedy,

if a snake should spell 'The End' for me.
 It's true, that experts milk some snakes;
 the thought of which gives me the shakes.
 The serum they mix might be WOW—
 but I'd much rather milk a cow!
 In conclusion, I will never buy
 a snake to pet, and this is why:
 They squeeze too tight,
 have a dangerous bite,
 and sleep all winter
 day and night.
 I most definitely am not ssssmitten,
 have certainly never—won't ever be bitten
 by the pet snake bug!

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 1

Activity sheet 2: I don't want a pet SNAKE (continued)

The author used alliteration because...

Challenge

Read another poem from The School Magazine such as '[Dragon in the sky](#)'. Compare the use of alliteration between the two poems.

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 1

Activity sheet 3: Ice cream flavours

Instructions

1. Add some more ice cream flavours to the list.
2. Brainstorm adjectives to describe ice cream using the headings: taste, texture, look, feel.
3. Create a range of ice cream flavours that use alliteration such as: Creamy caramel crunch or Rockin' ripe raspberry tongue twisters and challenge your family and friends to a tongue twister competition. Can you write your own tongue twister?

Flavour

Coconut, strawberry, blueberry, toffee, raspberry

Taste

Texture

Look

Feel

Alliteration ice cream flavours:

Challenge

Create a new ice cream shop. Think of an interesting name for your shop that uses alliteration. Think of some unusual flavour combinations and make a menu for a new ice cream shop.

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 2



Things your child will need

Have these things available so your child can complete this task.

Ideal

- [Alliteration Part 2 video](#)
- Activity sheet 4: Alliterative sentence
- Activity sheet 5: Alliterative experiences
- Activity sheet 6: Animal alliteration
- Pens and highlighters

Backup

- Printed version of the [Alliteration Part 2 PowerPoint presentation](#)
- Blank paper

Before your child starts

This lesson is the second in a series of 2 lessons about the literary device alliteration.

What are literary devices?

Literary devices are used in texts to connect with the reader and convey meaning. As your child reads they are beginning to recognise simple literary devices used by authors. Your child is also beginning to learn how to explain why the author has used the device. In narratives or stories, authors might use literary devices such as personification, similes, alliteration, onomatopoeia and imagery to engage the reader and allow them to visualise the setting and characters.

What is alliteration?

Your child will learn that alliteration is when a consonant sound is repeated in close succession. The repeated sound is usually found at the beginning of the words. In 'ripe, red raspberry', the repetition of the 'r' sound creates a rich sound effect and helps the reader visualise the fruit.

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 2

What your child needs to do

Your child will watch the Alliteration Part 2 video. The teacher will guide your child as they learn how to identify, explain and use alliteration in a text. Throughout the lesson, your child will be asked to pause the video to complete an activity on the activity sheets for the lesson.

By the end of the lesson, your child will have activities to support them to be able to meet the success criteria below:

- I can explain what alliteration is.
- I can find examples of alliteration in texts.
- I can explain why an author might use alliteration.
- I can create my own examples of alliteration.

Options for your child**Activity too hard?**

Work with your child to complete the brainstorming activities. Have your child orally complete the sentence writing and poem activity.

Activity too easy?

Write a picture book for a young friend, family member or student. Try to think of an animal for every letter of the alphabet. Write a poem for the animal using alliteration to create a humorous description. Illustrate your picture book and share it with the person you wrote it for.

What your child can do next

Your child will watch the video and pause throughout to complete the following activities:

- Activity sheet 4: Alliterative sentences
- Activity sheet 5: Alliterative experiences
- Activity sheet 6: Animal poems

Extension/Additional activity

There are lots of alliteration examples in books and poems. Your child might like to hunt for examples of alliteration in books and poems.

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 2

Activity sheet 4: Alliterative Sentences

Instructions

1. Choose a focus sound.
2. Write a list of each of the following types of words that begin with that sound: nouns, adjectives and verbs.
3. Choose one of your nouns and write an alliterative sentence using some of the nouns and verbs.

Example: The prickly pineapple poked my poor pinkie finger.

Challenge

Write a paragraph that includes as many of the nouns, adjectives and verbs as you can!

Nouns

Adjectives

Verbs

Sentence using one of the nouns

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 2

Activity sheet 5: Alliterative sentences

Instructions

1. Use the picture provided or think of a scene that is familiar to you.
2. Brainstorm a list of nouns that you would see and hear if you were in the scene.
3. Choose one of the nouns you would see and one you would hear.
4. Write an adjective, verb and adverb that would match each noun but make sure it starts with the same sound.
5. Write a paragraph that uses alliteration to describe what you would see and hear.

Example: I see the sacred sun setting silently over the water. I hear the wild waves waiting wishfully for the surfers.

Challenge

Turn your paragraph into a diary entry for yourself or someone who is in the scene.



Nouns I see:

Nouns I Hear:

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 2

Activity sheet 5: Alliterative sentences (continued)

Table 1: Identify a noun, adjective, verb and adverb for what you could see and hear in the image.

Action	Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
I see				
I hear				

Write your paragraph below:

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English/literacy – Alliteration – Part 2

Activity sheet 6: Animal alliteration

Instructions:

1. Think of an animal.
2. Think of an adjective, location and verb that start with the same sound as your animal.
3. Write a sentence about your animal (remember that the last word in the sentence will need to rhyme with the last word in the next sentence).
4. Repeat the process with a new animal.
5. Read your poem to make sure it flows, includes alliteration and has a rhyme.

Example:

Slippery snakes are sliding silently through Samoan streets.

While ten terrifying tigers in Turkey are telephoning for their treats.

Challenge

Write and illustrate a picture book about animals using alliteration to make humorous poems about each animal.

First animal

Adjective

Location

Verb

Rhyming word

Second animal

Adjective

Location

Verb

Rhyming word

Write your poem

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1



Things your child will need

Have these things available so your child can complete this task.

Ideal

- [The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus – Part 1 video](#)
- Activity sheet 1: I see, I think, I wonder
- Activity sheet 2: Poem
- Activity sheet 3: Frayer model
- Activity sheet 4: Definitions
- Pens and highlighters

Backup

- Printed version of the [The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus Part 1 PowerPoint presentation](#)
- Blank paper

Before your child starts

This lesson focuses on reading and thinking about the language choices in a poem called *The Muttaborrasaurus* by Colin Varney and illustrated by Peter Sheehan.

Poetry is a way of expressing feelings, ideas and telling stories. Poems can be written in lots of ways with many different structures.

What your child needs to do

Your child will watch [The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus – Part 1 video](#) which is based on the poem. The teacher will guide your child as they learn how to identify some of the language choices made by the poet.

Throughout the lesson, your child will be asked to pause the video to complete an activity on the activity sheets for the lesson.

By the end of the lesson, your child will have activities to support them to be able to:

- explore language choices in the poem.

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1

What your child can do next

Your child will watch the video and pause throughout to complete the following activities:

- Activity sheet 1: I see, I think, I wonder
- Activity sheet 2: Poem
- Activity sheet 3: Frayer model
- Activity sheet 4: Definitions

Extension/Additional activity

Researching and using new vocabulary can help support your child with both reading and writing. With your child, decide on a 'Word of the week' using one of the focus vocabulary words from the poem. See how many times you and your child can use the word in a sentence or spot it when reading.

Options for your child**Activity too hard?**

Your child might complete the activities for the first two stanzas rather than the whole poem. Work with your child to explore the vocabulary. [The Collin's Online Dictionary](#) can be helpful for students when exploring vocabulary.

Activity too easy?

Research other poems and compare them with The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus. What sorts of literary devices can you identify? What other sorts of literary devices do poets regularly use? Research and find examples of simile, metaphor and analogy in a range of poems.

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1

Activity sheet 1: I see, I think, I wonder

Instructions

Look at the illustration that accompanies the poem The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus by Colin Varney, illustrated by Peter Sheehan. Write down the things you see, think and wonder about the illustration.

Challenge

Write a paragraph about what you predict the poem will be about.

I see...

I think...

I wonder...

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1

Activity sheet 2: Poetry

Instructions

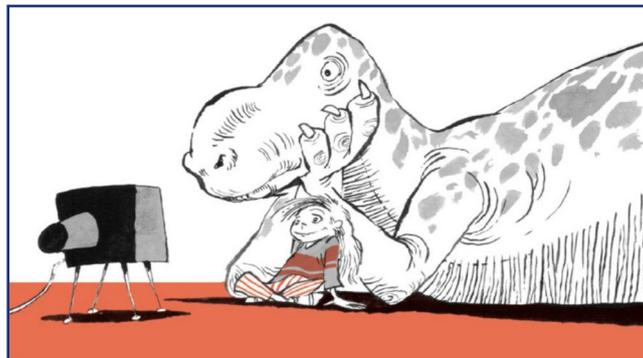
Read the poem *The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus* by Colin Varney, illustrated by Peter Sheehan below. Use the following ideas to help you think about the words and language choices in the poem.

Ideas

- Underline words if you are unsure of their meaning or unfamiliar with them.
- Use a highlighter to highlight words or parts of the poem that you like.
- Draw a box around rhyming words.

Challenge

Read another poem from *The School Magazine* such as [‘Dragon in the Sky’](#). Compare the use of language choices and literary devices used in the two poems.

**The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus Poem by Colin Varney, illustrated by Peter Sheehan**

My family has a pet and she really does adore us,
You'd know that we were happy if you ever ever saw us.
She is not a kangaroo, a platypus or a walrus.
She's a prehistoric creature called a muttaborrasaurus.

When she starts to growl you know she's really rather raucous.
In the middle of the night, the neighbours quite abhor us.
Mr Smith next door says he'll have to call his lawyers.
So try to keep it quiet, noisy muttaborrasaurus.

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1

Activity sheet 2: Poetry (continued)

Her skin is brown and very tough and not the least bit porous.
Her feet are large and spiky, but she never tries to claw us.
Her tail is large and swishy, but she never tries to floor us.
She won a cup at obedience school, our muttaburrasaurus.

People say, 'I'll guess its name, I bet that it's called Horace,
Or Rex, or is it Rover? Or do you call it Morris?'
'No,' I say, 'you are quite wrong. My pet's name is Dolores.
You see, he's a she—a female muttaburrasaurus.

When I take her for a walk she sniffs at trees and foyers.
When she sleeps at night she is the loudest of the snorers.
When she cleans herself she is particular and thorough.
She's a neat and tidy dinosaur that hails from Muttaborra.

She played a game of footy. She was one of the best scorers.
A fortune teller said she had the shiniest of auras.
She was born in early May—hey, that makes her a Taurus.
She must be pretty old by now, that muttaburrasaurus.

An artist from the college said she'd really like to draw us.
We stood as still as statues, with smiles large and joyous.
We stayed stock-still for hours, till it began to bore us.
Then the canvas wasn't big enough, poor muttaburrasaurus.

My song is finished, nearly done, I hope you found it glorious.
We're at the end, there is no more, although you may implore us.
Around about three hundred words: eight verses, not one chorus,
About a large and friendly pet, my muttaburrasaurus.

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1

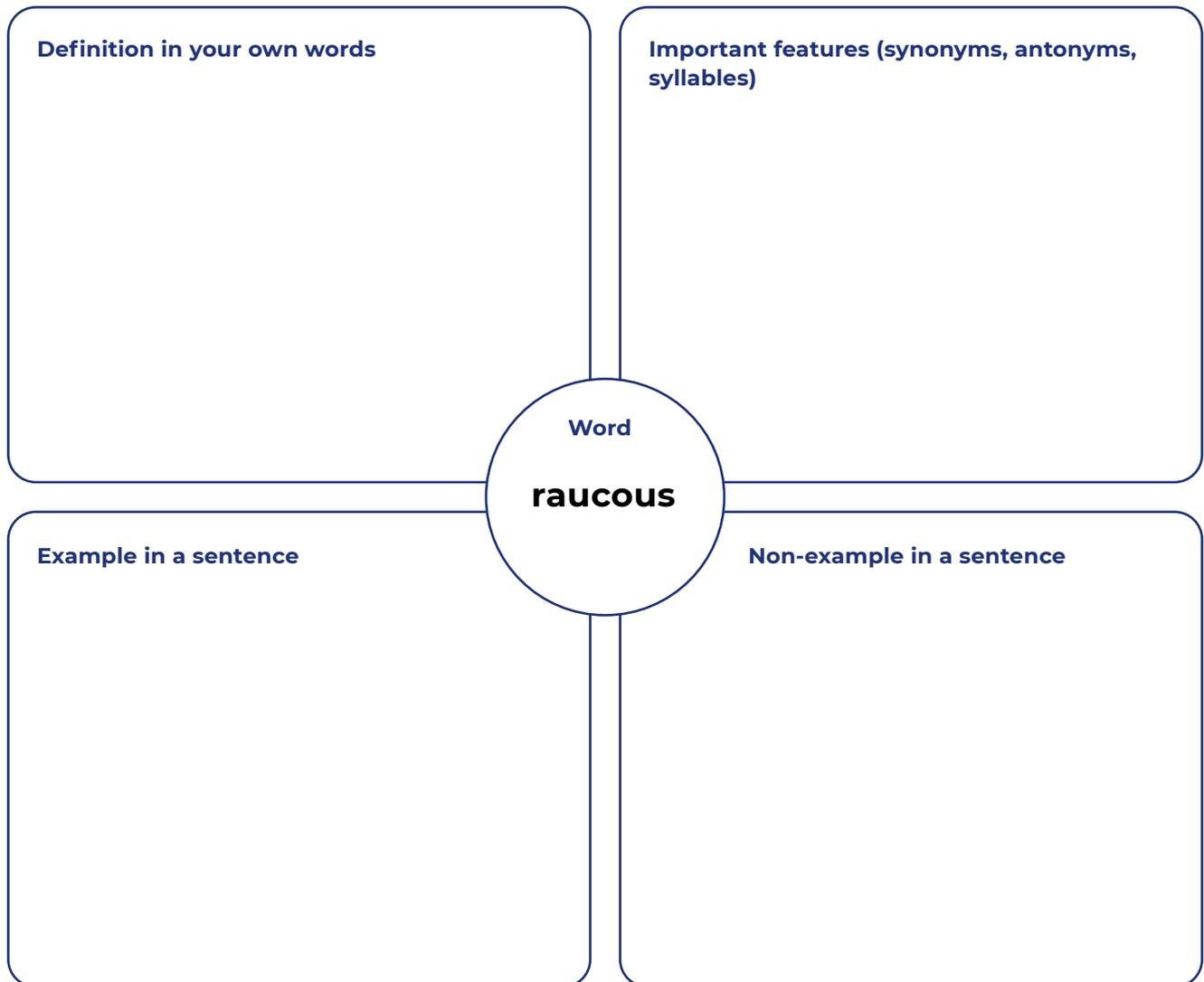
Activity sheet 3: Poem

Instructions

Complete the Frayer model for the focus vocabulary word – raucous.

Challenge

Choose another word from the poem and complete a Frayer model for the word.



Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Poetry – Part 1

Activity sheet 4: Definitions

Instructions

This poem uses many descriptive words to describe character actions and features. Use an online dictionary to write a definition of each word below.

Challenge

Brainstorm synonyms and antonyms for the words you have just defined.

In the table below, write the definition of the words from the poem.

Word	Definition
raucous	
abhor	
porous	
joyous	
implore	
adore	

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Poetry – Part 2



Things your child will need

Have these things available so your child can complete this task.

Ideal

- [The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus Part 2 video](#)
- Activity sheet 5: Imagery
- Activity sheet 6: Main idea
- Activity sheet 7: Personal response
- Pens and highlighters

Backup

- Printed version of the [The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus Part 2 PowerPoint presentation](#)
- Paper

Before your child starts

This lesson focuses on reading and thinking about the imagery and main ideas within a poem called *The Muttaborrasaurus* by Colin Varney and illustrated by Peter Sheehan.

Poetry is a way of expressing feelings, ideas and telling stories. Poems can be written in lots of ways with many different structures.

What your child needs to do

Your child should watch [The Muttaborrasaurus Chorus Part 2 video](#). The teacher in the video will guide your child as they learn how to identify some of the imagery in the poem and the main ideas of the poem.

Throughout the lesson, your child will be asked to pause the video to complete an activity on the activity sheets for the lesson.

By the end of the lesson, your child will:

- have activities to support them to be able to explain the main idea of the poem.

What your child can do next

Your child will watch the video and pause throughout to complete the following activities:

- Activity sheet 5: Imagery
- Activity sheet 6: Main idea
- Activity sheet 7: Personal response

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Poetry – Part 2

Options for your child

Activity too hard?

Your child might write about or orally record thoughts about the main idea of the first two stanzas rather than the whole poem.

Activity too easy?

Have your child write a humorous poem about a unique pet that they would like to own.

Extension/Additional activity

What unusual or unique pet would your child like to own? Have your child write a persuasive letter explaining what pet they would like to own and how they would look after it.

Year 3 & 4

English/literacy – Poetry – Part 2

Activity sheet 5: Imagery

Imagery is used by the writer to get the reader to connect to his or her piece. By getting the reader to think about the poem using their senses (sight, smell, taste, touch, and feel), there is a deeper connection to the poem. Imagery makes the reader feel like they are actually in the poem.

Instructions

1. Read the stanza from the poem which is written below.
2. Highlight the words that help you use your senses to imagine what is going on.
3. Draw a for each line of the stanza.

Challenge

Explain how the poet helped you use your senses to understand what was happening in the stanza.

Excerpt from *The Muttaborrasaurus*

by Colin Varney and illustrated by Peter Sheehan.

“When I take her for a walk she sniffs at trees and foyers.

When she sleeps at night she is the loudest of the snorers.

When she cleans herself she is particular and thorough.

She’s a neat and tidy dinosaur that hails from Muttaborra.”

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 2

Activity sheet 6: Main idea

Instructions

1. Read each stanza of the poem.
2. Highlight the important words that help you know the main idea of the stanza.
3. Write one sentence at the end of each stanza to summarise the main idea.

The Muttaborrasaurus

by Colin Varney and illustrated by Peter Sheehan. Used with permission from [The School Magazine](#).

My family has a pet and she really does adore us,
You'd know that we were happy if you ever ever saw us.
She is not a kangaroo, a platypus or a walrus.
She's a prehistoric creature called a muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

When she starts to growl you know she's really rather raucous.
In the middle of the night, the neighbours quite abhor us.
Mr Smith next door says he'll have to call his lawyers.
So try to keep it quiet, noisy muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

Her skin is brown and very tough and not the least bit porous
Her feet are large and spiky, but she never tries to claw us.
Her tail is large and swishy, but she never tries to floor us.
She won a cup at obedience school, our muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 2

Activity sheet 6: Main idea (continued)

People say, 'I'll guess its name, I bet that it's called Horace,
Or Rex, or is it Rover? Or do you call it Morris?'
'No,' I say, 'you are quite wrong. My pet's name is Dolores.
You see, he's a she—a female muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

When I take her for a walk she sniffs at trees and foyers.
When she sleeps at night she is the loudest of the snorers.
When she cleans herself she is particular and thorough.
She's a neat and tidy dinosaur that hails from Muttaborra.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

She played a game of footy. She was one of the best scorers.
A fortune teller said she had the shiniest of auras.
She was born in early May—hey, that makes her a Taurus.
She must be pretty old by now, that muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

An artist from the college said she'd really like to draw us.
We stood as still as statues, with smiles large and joyous.
We stayed stock-still for hours, till it began to bore us.
Then the canvas wasn't big enough, poor muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

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English/literacy – Poetry – Part 2

Activity sheet 6: Main idea (continued)

My song is finished, nearly done, I hope you found it glorious.
We're at the end, there is no more, although you may implore us.
Around about three hundred words: eight verses, not one chorus,
About a large and friendly pet, my muttaburrasaurus.

Write the main idea of this stanza:

Activity sheet 7: Personal response**Instructions**

Write a paragraph about your personal response to the poem. You could include details about what you liked or disliked from the poem. You could also talk about whether you made a personal connection to the poem and why.

Challenge

Write about something or someone you have a special connection with. This might be a pet or a friend.