

Writing: Personal Poetry

Have students write their own poems. Explain that they will be asked to say in as few words as possible the first thing that they think of in answer to 8 questions. Instruct students to write each answer on a separate line. Each line should begin with a capital letter. (With younger students, you may write each students' answers on the chalkboard. You may wish to insert verbs or delete superfluous words.)

1. What is your favorite place? (Use 1 or 2 words to name it.)
2. What is your favorite kind of day there?
3. What is your favorite time of day there?
4. What sounds do you hear there? Name 2 or 3. Each should be on its own line.
5. What things do you see there? Name 2 or 3. Each on its own line.
6. What things do you most enjoy doing there? Name 2 or 3...
7. When will you go to your favorite place again?
8. How will you feel then?

Sample poem:

A lovely beach
On a warm and windy day
At sunrise
Gulls scream
Wind whines
Waves splash
Birds wheel over the water
Children run barefoot
A sail appears on the horizon
I float in the water
I run on the beach to get warm
I lie in the sun
In the long lazy summer
I will be happy