

Cowboy Poetry Fun Festival

SUBJECT AREA: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE: 4-6



GENERAL LEARNER OUTCOMES

English Language Arts Grade 4-6

Students will:

- 1: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences.
- 2: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts.
- 3: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to manage ideas and information.
- 4: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.



SPECIFIC LEARNER OUTCOMES

Students will:

- 1.1 Discover and explore, clarify and extend
- 2.2: Respond to texts
- 2.3: Understand form, elements and techniques
- 2.4: Create original text
- 3.4: Share and Review
- 4.1: Enhance and improve
- 4.2: Attend to conventions
- 4.3: Present and Share



STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Students will:

- 1.1 Express ideas and develop understanding; experiment with language and forms; set goals.
- 2.2: Appreciate the artistry of texts.
- 2.3: experiment with language.
- 2.4: generate ideas; elaborate on the expression of ideas; structure texts.
- 3.4: share ideas and information.
- 4.1: appraise own and others' work; revise and edit; enhance legibility; expand knowledge of language; enhance artistry.
- 4.2: attend to grammar and usage; attend to spelling; attend to capitalization and punctuation.
- 4.3: present information; enhance presentation; use effective oral and visual communications.





ASSESSMENT

Students will provide evidence of learning by:

Writing 2 Cowboy poems that follow assignment criteria
Present one Cowboy poem at the "Cowboy Poetry Fun Festival."



MATERIALS

[The Ballad of the Lonesome Cowboy](#)

[Story Telling and Cowboy Poetry](#)

[National Cowboy Poetry Gathering: Randy Rieman recites "Leaving Camp"](#)

[Caine's Arcade](#)

Cardboard boxes, paint, tape, stapler, markers, scissors and other found objects.



LEARNING RESOURCES

Alberta Education Programs of Study



Cowboy poetry is distinctive both in its culturally specific subject matter and its traditional use of rhyme and meter. While the range of emotional landscapes explored in cowboy poetry are the traditional province of poetry—from joy to grief, from humour to spirituality—the particulars derive from the American West: horses, cattle, fire, prairie storms, mythic figures of cowboys and ranchers, and the sublime wilderness.

Cowboy Poetry!!! What sort of storytelling will be revealed in these student poems? Take advantage of an inspiring topic to provoke student imagination in poetry writing and in creating a fun setting for their presentations!

Assignment criteria for the 2 poems, as well as 6 figures of speech to choose from for inclusion in the poems (metaphor, personification, synecdoche, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, and alliteration), are expanded upon in the Student Assignment. In order for students to share their poems at the culminating Cowboy Poetry Fun Festival, students will plan the event and build a setting of their own creation for the presentations, using found objects.

View and Discuss

Types of Cowboy poetry forms to choose from:

Ballad - “A ballad is a poem that tells a story, usually (but not always) in four-line stanzas called quatrains. The ballad form is enormously diverse, and poems in this form may have any one of hundreds of different rhyme schemes and meters.” Refer to videos: The Ballad of the Lonesome Cowboy, Storytelling and Cowboy Poetry.

Ode - “In ancient Greece, where odes were first written, they were designed to be read out loud, in public settings, to honour the person or thing in question. In the modern world, the function of the ode is fairly similar. It’s a writer or artist’s way of publicly declaring their respect and admiration for a person or thing.” Refer to video: National Cowboy Poetry Gathering: Randy Rieman recites “Leaving Camp.”

Other terms:

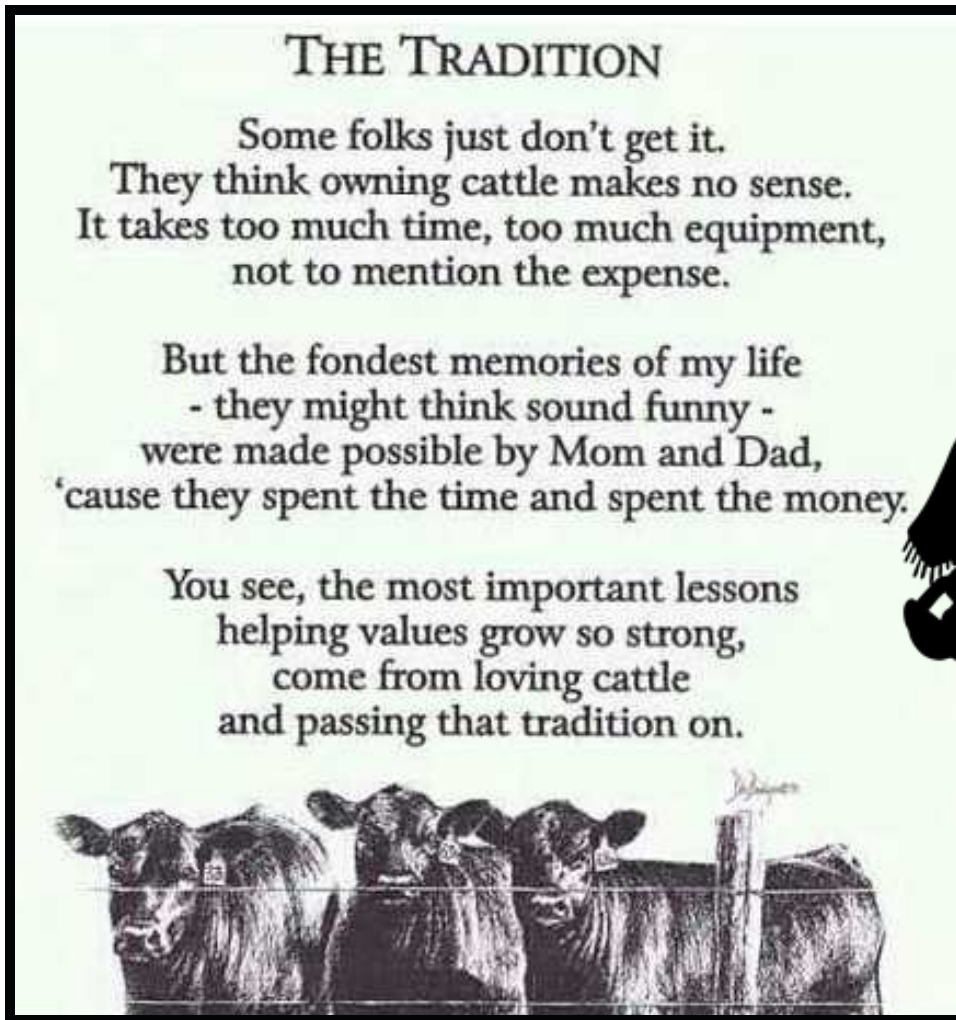
Rhyme - “Rhymes are words whose endings match, as in “fly” and “spy.” This is one of the most common techniques in traditional poetry and music.”

Quatrain - “A quatrain is a verse with four lines.”

Meter - “Meter is a literary device that works as a structural element in poetry. Essentially, meter is the basic rhythmic structure of a line within a poem or poetic work. Meter functions as a means of imposing a specific number of syllables and emphasis when it comes to a line of poetry that adds to its musicality. It consists of the number of syllables and the pattern of emphasis on those syllables. In addition, meter governs individual units within a line of poetry, called “feet.” A “foot” of a poetic work features a specific number of syllables and pattern of emphasis.”

Stanza - “In poetry, a stanza is a dividing and organizing technique which places a group of lines in a poem together, separated from other groups of lines by line spacing or indentation. Stanzas are to poetry what paragraphs are to prose. Stanzas can be rhymed or unrhymed and fixed or unfixed in meter or syllable count.”

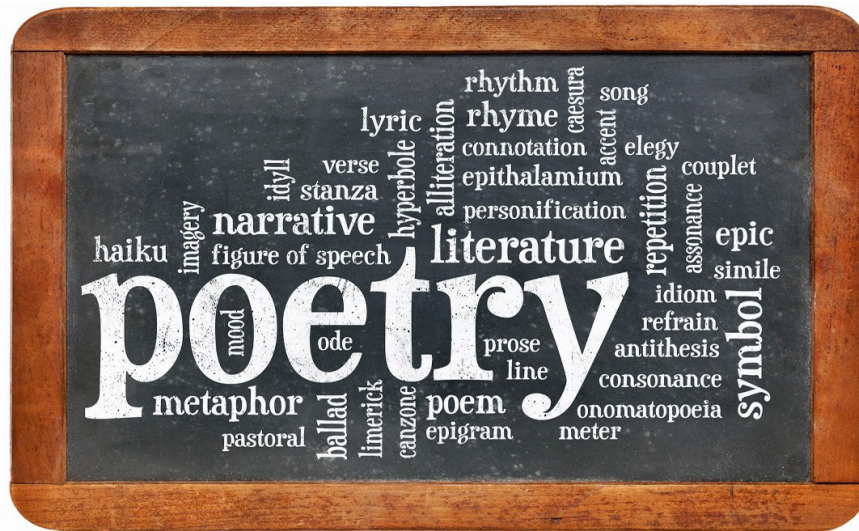
Poem Example:



SETTING

How can students create a fun setting to share their Cowboy Poetry with others? To inspire the creation of a unique and fun event to present their Cowboy Poetry, following the lead of a creative boy named Caine, can be very inspiring.

“‘Caine’s Arcade’ charmed the world with its message of creativity, hard work, perseverance, and community, and how a simple act of kindness could lead to wonderful and unexpected outcomes. Widely cited as one of the most inspirational stories of 2012, the 11-minute film has been viewed over 8 million times, sparking a wave of cardboard creativity from backyards to classrooms around the globe and launching the Imagination.org whose mission is to foster creativity and entrepreneurship in children around the world.”



How can you help others enjoy and appreciate Cowboy poetry? Share a poem you write and plan an activity with your peers where you present your poetry. As Cowboy Poetry is a unique way of telling a story or singing it, your presentation will demand some practicing.

Write an inspiring Cowboy Poem and present it in an amazing way.

“A cowboy is an animal herder who tends cattle on ranches in North America, traditionally on horseback, and often performs a multitude of other ranch-related tasks.”

In this poetry writing assignment “Cowboy Poetry Fun Festival”, you will submit 2 poems where you take on the role of the cowboy. As they lived an outdoor life, their poetry has horses, cattle, fire, prairie storms, cowboys and ranchers, and the wilderness as some of the content. You will appeal to the emotions of your audience as you enjoy telling your story in verse. In order to do this you must memorize and practice presenting your poem.

You can decide where to use the Figures of Speech listed here, in your poems. Figures of speech or literary devices, are ways of using words imaginatively to make writing more descriptive and colourful. At least 2 of the Figures of Speech listed must be used and noted when you submit your poetry.

Writing needs revision, especially poetry. Since poems are usually compact and precise, they almost always need rethinking and rewriting. Enjoy the process as you think about the Cowboy lifestyle.

When you submit your 2 poems (on Google Docs or handwritten), you must also include an illustration that enhances and gives a visual description of your poems’ content.

In order to complete this poetry writing activity, you will present one of your poems at the Cowboy Poetry Fun Festival activity you have planned. Following building ideas inspired by the video of “Caine’s Arcade”, build your background props for the presentations. You can insert a video link on your Doc of your poem reading, if you are unable to attend the Cowboy Poetry Fun Festival.

6 FIGURES OF SPEECH TO CHOOSE FROM ... YOU MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST 2:

Metaphor:

Metaphors compares two unlike things, but without the words "like" or "as". Metaphors simply say "This is That"

- "My brother was boiling mad." This implies he was too angry.
- "The assignment was a breeze." This implies that the assignment was not difficult.
- "It is going to be clear skies from now on." This implies that clear skies are not a threat and life is going to be without hardships.
- "The skies of his future began to darken." Darkness is a threat; therefore, this implies that the coming times are going to be hard for him.
- "Her voice is music to his ears." This implies that her voice makes him feel happy.

Personification

Personification gives human traits, characteristics, or qualities to a non-human subject.

- "Look at my car. She is a beauty, isn't it so?"
- "The wind whispered through dry grass."
- "The flowers danced in the gentle breeze."
- "Time and tide waits for none."
- "The fire swallowed the entire forest."

Synecdoche

Synecdoche refers to the whole of a thing by the name of any one of its parts.

- "All hands on deck!" (sailors)
- "Are you paying with plastic?" (credit card)
- "Canada took home gold" (won first place)
- "Nice wheels!" (car)
- "Many white hairs attended the show." (elderly people)



Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is using words that make a sound, such as buzz, bing, bang, and bong.

- "The sheep went, 'Baa'!"
- "Silence your cell phone so that it doesn't beep during the movie."
- "The bridge collapsed creating a tremendous boom."
- "It is not unusual for a dog to bark when visitors arrive"
- "The bird's chirp filled the empty night air."

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggeration or overstatement. It is often, but not always, used for comic effect.

- "That was the easiest question in the world."
- "I can smell pizza from a mile away."
- "I went home and made the biggest sandwich of all time."
- "They ran like greased lightning."
- "He is older than the hills."

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the beginning sounds of neighbouring words.

- "She sells seashells."
- "Walter wondered where Winnie was."
- "Blue baby bonnets bobbed through the bayou."
- "Nick needed new notebooks."
- "Fred fried frogs' legs on Friday."



ELA Grade 4-6	Excellent	Proficient	Satisfactory	Limited
Meaning and Originality LANG: 1.1 2.3 2.4 3.4	Poem is creative and original. It is evident that the poet put thought into their words and uniquely conveyed their ideas and emotions.	Poem is thoughtful and creative. A couple of phrases or ideas may be revisited, but the overall product is carefully written.	Most of the poem is creative, but appears to be rushed. This is evident in the poet's overuse of an idea.	Poems appear to be thoughtless or rushed. Work is very repetitive, and ideas are unoriginal.
Sensory Details LANG: 2.2 4.1 4.3	Vivid, detailed images and intensely felt emotion make the poems come alive. Illustration and expressive reading strengthens poems' ideas.	Clear sensory images are used to portray ideas or emotions. Illustration and expressive reading generally strengthens poems' ideas.	Some use of image, idea or emotion. Illustration and reading slightly strengthens poems' ideas.	Difficult to visualize image or emotion. No illustration present. Reading is difficult to understand.
Form LANG: 1.1 2.3	The poem is complete and follows its intended form.	The poem is written in its proper form with a few mistakes	The poem is somewhat written in its proper form.	The poem is not written in its proper form.
Grammar 4.2	Proper use of English spelling and grammar is used consistently throughout the poems. Punctuation is utilized when necessary.	A couple of spelling or grammar mistakes are evident, but do not diminish the meaning of the poems. Punctuation is utilized when necessary.	The poet's intended meaning is confused by several spelling or grammar errors. Punctuation may be misused.	There are numerous spelling or grammar errors, making the poems difficult to understand. Punctuation is used incorrectly.



<https://imagination.org/about-us/our-story/>

<https://poets.org/text/brief-guide-cowboy-poetry>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowboy>

<https://literaryterms.net/>

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-cowboysongs/13/>

<https://literarydevices.net/>

<http://inspirational-poems.net/cowboy-poems>