

Name: _____ Date: _____

Poetry Craft Tips

Directions: Read the tips below and choose one or more to try out in your poem.

- Help readers make a mental image in their mind by choosing **precise words**.
Example: *periwinkle* instead of *blue*
- Use words that show one or more of the **five senses**.
- The decision of where to use **line breaks** impacts meaning.
Example: Set a word or phrase on a line all by itself for impact.
- Use **alliteration** with purpose.
Example: To show the mood or to create pacing (how quickly or slowly the reader reads a section of your poem)
- Try a **circular ending**. Begin and end your poem by repeating a word, phrase, or idea.
- **Vary the length of your stanzas**. Follow a long stanza with a short stanza (or the reverse) to show a change in events, a change within a character, the passing of time, and more.
- Repeat words or phrases to create rhythm and beat.
- Repeat words or phrases to show that an idea is important.
- Convey feelings, motivations, and action with **strong verbs**.
Example: *dip into the water* is different from *cannonball into the water*
- Use a **metaphor** or **simile** to compare, enhancing meaning and imagination.

Source: Adapted from “Writing Strategies Used in Poetry” (pages 48-49) of *Writing Is Magic, or Is It? Using Mentor Texts to Develop the Writer’s Craft* by Jennifer M. Bogard and Mary C. McMackin (2015).