

Toad-themed Poetry

Here's a creative writing challenge: use these prompts to write a poem about toads using different poetry forms. Each form has different rules and I have included an example of each type. Please share your writing with Froglife

Haiku

A haiku is a 3 lined Japanese poem, written usually about nature

Rules:

- 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the next, and 5 in the final line.
- There is no need to rhyme, or give them a title
- They are usually about something emotional

Example (written about a blackbird)

Chase flick dip tick run

Body plain music vibrant

Calamity! Gone

By Rebecca Neal

Acrostic

Rules:

- A poem where usually the first letter of each line spells out a word
- The word it spells out is the subject of the poem
- It doesn't need to rhyme

Example:

Night-time movers

Enjoy eating invertebrates

With wet skin and

Tiny golden toe-rings

By Rebecca Neal



Collage poem

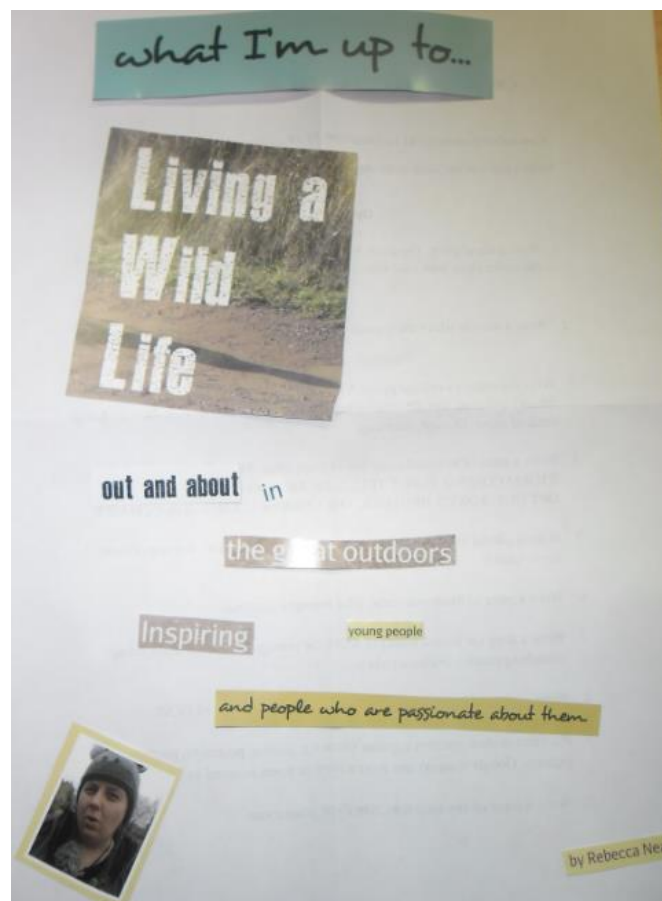
A collage poem is made using words and phrases picked from a book, magazine or any piece of writing

You could print out a copy of Froglife's summary of the recent important research on the decline of toads: www.froglife.org/2016/10/06/goodbye-mr-toad/

Rules

- There are no rules!
- All you need to do is scan through the text, cut out any words or phrases that leap out at you, and arrange them in a poem on a piece of paper
- They don't have to rhyme or even make sense!
- Don't stick them down, photograph them instead so you can reuse the best words.

Example



Dylan Thomas couplets

Rules

- These are poems in two lines, which start with a question involving the senses, and then a series of four nouns and adjectives

Examples

Have you ever built a den?

Woody sticks, big achievement, comfortable shelter, happy team

By Rebecca Neal

Have you ever hugged a tree?

Twiggy friend, bird house, jagged skin, leafy clothes

By Rebecca Neal

Blank verse

Rules

- Blank verse is simply a type of poetry which doesn't rhyme and has a "de-dum de-dum, de-dum, de-dum, de-dum" rhythm.
- The official name for this type of rhythm is iambic pentameter which means it has 10 syllables and the stress is on syllables 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10
- You can write as many lines as you like

Example (the stressed syllables are italicised)

It *leapt* an *urgent death-croak* from my hand

Right *at* the *young boy's* open mouth it *seemed*

The *whole* group *jumped* unconsciously in *mime*

And *someone* *screamed* out *loud* hysteric'ly

It *landed* *upside down* then *hopped* away

The *scared* and *fascinated* *followed* *suit*

By Rebecca Neal



Triolet

Rules

- A triolet is a poem with eight lines
- The rhyme scheme is *AbaAabAB*.
- The first, fourth and seventh line are the same, and they rhyme with the third and fifth line, *and* that the second and last line are the same, and that they rhyme with the sixth.

Example

When you touch nature, nature touches you

At a primal level, we need it

To help us see a better view

When you touch nature, nature touches you

Green replaces blue

When we absorb its spirit

When you touch nature, nature touches you

At a primal level, we need it.

By Rebecca Neal

Limerick

A limerick is a short funny poem which is often a bit cheeky, and sometimes nonsense

Rules

- They have 5 lines where the first, second and fifth lines rhyme and the third and fourth rhyme (in literary terms, this is described as the rhyme scheme AABBA).
- The first line usually introduces a character and a place.
- There are complicated ways to talk about the rhythm which uses words like feet, syllables and meter, but basically it goes like this:



de DUM de de DUM de de DUM
de DUM de de DUM de de DUM
de DUM de de DUM
de DUM de de DUM
de DUM de de DUM de de DUM

Example

There once was a girl in the fens
Who took teenagers out to build dens
She wrote poetry for fun
Read short stories she's done
As they always contain handsome men
By Rebecca Neal

