

Unit 2 Poems

A Few Simple Forms of English Poems

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Lead-in

Activity 1: Reciting and comparing.

1. Do you remember **the first poem** you learned as a child?
Could you **recite** it in beautiful Chinese?
2. **Compare** it with its English version, and tell which one you prefer and state your reasons.

静夜思

李白

Thoughts in the silent night

床前明月光， Beside my bed a pool of light,
疑是地上霜。 Is it frost on the ground?
举头望明月， I lift my eyes and see the moon,
低头思故乡。 I bend my head and think of home.

Q: Which one do you prefer? Why?

The same or similar pronunciation of the words is called **rhyme**(押韵).



Nursery rhyme

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
 Up above the world so high
 Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are

Tang poem

床前明月光，
 疑是地上霜。
 举头望明月，
 低头思故乡。

Q: What are the similarities and differences between the two poems?

similarity: **rhyme**

difference:

- language
- Repetition
- forms

Read for the structure

What are the forms of poems mentioned?

- **Nursery rhyme 童谣**
- **List poems 清单诗**
- **Cinquain 五行诗**
- **Haiku 俳句**
- **Tang poems 唐诗**

Can you find the words with the same rhyme?

**Hush, little baby, don't say a word,
Papa's going to buy you a mocking bird.**

**If that mockingbird won't sing,
Papa's going to buy you a diamond ring.**

**If that diamond ring turns to brass,
Papa's going to buy you a looking glass.**

**If that looking-glass gets broke,
Papa's going to buy you a billy-goat**

**If that billy-goat runs away,
Papa's going to buy you another today.**

Nursery rhyme 童谣

Can you find the words with the same rhyme?
Can you find the patterns with a repetition?

Hush, little baby, don't say a **word**,
Papa's going to buy you a mocking **bird**. } [ɜ:d]

If that mockingbird won't **sing**,
Papa's going to buy you a diamond **ring**. } [ɪŋ]

If that diamond ring turns to **brass**,
Papa's going to buy you a looking **glass**. } [ɑ:s]

If that looking-glass gets **broke**,
Papa's going to buy you a billy-**goat** } [əʊ]

If that billy-goat runs **away**,
Papa's going to buy you another **today**. } [eɪ]

Nursery rhyme 童谣

Rhyme, repetition and rhythm all give **beauty** to the poem.

Hush, little baby, don't say a **word**,
Papa's going to buy you a mocking **bird**.

If that mockingbird won't **sing**,
Papa's going to buy you a diamond **ring**.

repetition

If that diamond ring turns to **brass**,

rhyme

Papa's going to buy you a looking **glass**.

If that looking-glass gets **broke**,

Papa's going to buy you a billy-**goat**

rhythm

节奏

If that billy-goat runs **away**,

Papa's going to buy you another **today**.

Activity 2: Singing and performing.

“Great Beethoven”伟大的贝多芬

Make a melody(旋律)
for the nursery rhyme
“Hush, little baby”.



Nursery rhyme

- The language is concrete but imaginative
- They rhyme, have strong rhythm and much repetition
- They may not make sense and even seem contradictory, but are easy to learn and recite.

List Poems 清单诗 B

Can you find out the **rhyme**, **rhythm** and **repetition** in the poem?

I saw a fish-pond all on fire,
I saw a house bow to a squire,
I saw a person twelve-feet high,
I saw a cottage in the sky,
I saw a balloon made of lead,
I saw a coffin drop down dead,
I saw two sparrows run a race,
I saw two horses making lace,
I saw a girl just like a cat,
I saw a kitten wear a hat,
I saw a man who saw these too,
And said though strange they all were true.

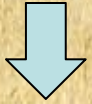
List Poems 清单诗 B

Can you find out the **rhyme**, **rhythm** and **repetition** in the poem?

I saw a fish-pond all on **fire**,
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I saw a balloon made of **lead**,
I saw a coffin drop down **dead**,
I saw two sparrows run a **race**,
I saw two horses making **lace**,
I saw a girl just like a **cat**,
I saw a kitten wear a **hat**,
I saw a man who saw these **too**,
And said though strange they all were **true**.

List Poems 清单诗 C

**Does it
have 3R?**



**rhyme
repetition
rhythm**

We would have won...
If Jack had scored that goal,
If we'd had just a few more minutes,
If we had trained harder,
If Ben had passed the ball to Joe,
If we'd had thousands of fans screaming,
If I hadn't taken my eye off the ball,
If we hadn't stayed up so late the night before,
If we hadn't take it easy,
If we hadn't run out of energy.
We should have won...
If we'd been better!

List Poems 清单诗 C

**Does it
have 3R?**

**Function of
the repeated
“If...”**



**Strong feeling
of regret**

We would have won...

If Jack had scored that goal,

If we'd had just a few more minutes,

If we had trained harder,

If Ben had passed the ball to Joe,

If we'd had thousands of fans screaming,

If I hadn't taken my eye off the ball,

If we hadn't stayed up so late the night before,

If we hadn't take it easy,

If we hadn't run out of energy.

We should have won...

If we'd been better!

List poems

- Have a flexible line length and repeated phrases which give both a pattern and a rhythm to the poem.
- Some rhyme while others don't.

Cinquain 五行诗

Tell what images the cinquain conveys to you
and try to summarize the structure.

Brother

Beautiful, athletic

Teasing, shouting, laughing

Friend and enemy too
mine



Summer

Sleepy, salty

Drying, drooping, dreading

Week in, week out

Endless



Cinquain 五行诗

The structure of a cinquain

Brother → a name (subject of the poem)

Beautiful ,athletic → two adjs (describe the subject)

Teasing, shouting ,laughing → three verbs ending with -ing (describe actions)

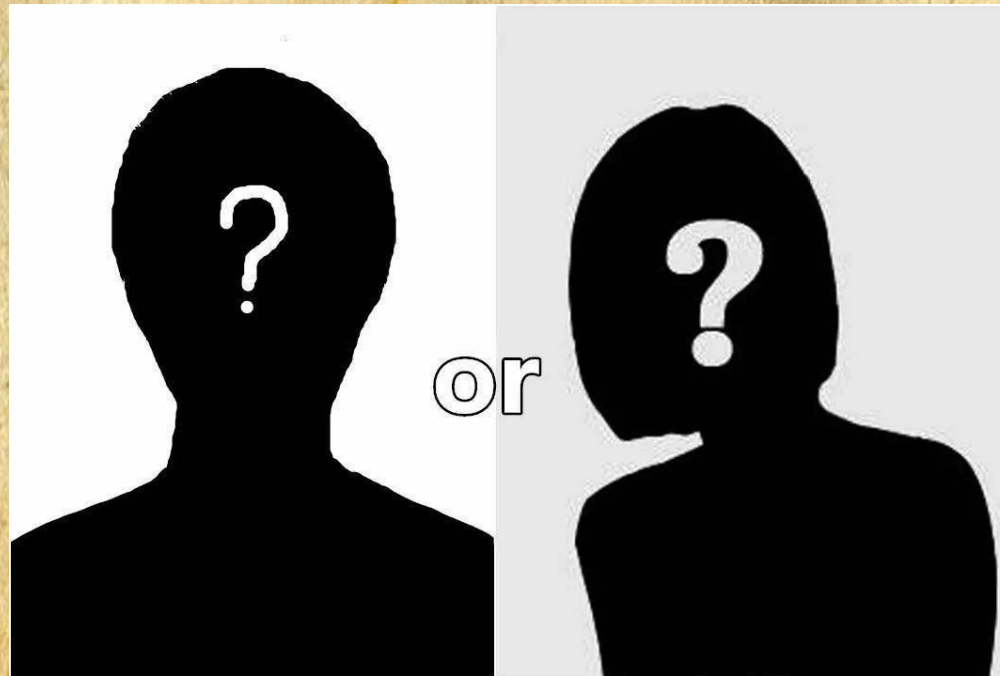
Friend and enemy too → four words (opinions or feelings)

mine → repeat the subject in another way

Cinquain五行诗

Activity 3: Creating and guessing.

1. Write a cinquain about **your friend in the class.**
2. Share your cinquain with the class and the rest of the students **guess who he/ she is writing about.**



Haiku俳句

**A fallen blossom
is coming back to the branch.
look, a butterfly!**

落下的花朵
回到了树枝上。
瞧啊，是个蝴蝶！

**What are the two haikus describing?
How many syllables are there in each poem?**

雪儿融化了，
整个村庄充满着
欢乐的儿童。

**Snow having melted,
The whole village is brimful
of happy children**

Haiku俳句

Nature
Seasons

17 syllables

A fallen blossom	5	落下的花朵
is coming back to the branch.	7	回到了树枝上。
look, a butterfly!	5	瞧啊，是个蝴蝶！

What are the two haikus describing?

How many syllables are there in each poem?

雪儿融化了，	5	Snow having melted,
整个村庄充满着	7	The whole village is brimful
欢乐的儿童。	5	of happy children

Activity 4: Appreciating and imitating.

1. **Appreciate** the haikus chosen from Japan's national Haiku contest.
2. Try to **imitate** the pattern and **write three lines** about whatever subjects in either English or Chinese.

(3)

一同生活了61年 而今却天人永别
我对着天上的星星向你道晚安
回答若有若无 你呀 还是一样耳背呢
(神奈川县 女性 80岁)

(1)

爸爸做的唯一一道菜
咸鸡蛋饼
比什么都好吃
(北海道 男性 17岁)

(2)

你的那些恶作剧
我是故意上当的呢
只是想看见你的笑容
(兵库县 男性 15岁)

(4)

你抱着孙子
完全就是一副祖母的样子
好可爱啊
(东京都 男性 75岁)

Tang poem 唐诗

Activity 5: Exploring and discovering.



Explore the sentence patterns in the tang poem.

Where she awaits her husband,

On and on the river flows.

Never looking back,

Transformed into stone.

Day by day upon the mountain top,

wind and rain revolve.

Should the journey return,

this stone would utter speech.

parallel sentence

平行句

inverted sentence

倒装句



Discover the possible feelings of the woman based on the sentence patterns discussed.

loneliness: She was alone waiting for her husband on the mountain top.

love: She waited year after year despite wind and rain.

trust: She believed her husband would come back one day.

sorrow: Year after year, she waited and waited without seeing any hope of her husband coming back, and she felt very sad.

Activity 6: Discussing and judging.

What forms do these poems belong to?

cinquain

Spring

Beautiful, colorful

Working, laughing, exciting

Seeds sprout, flowers bloom

Wonderful

Activity 6: Discussing and judging.

What forms do these poems belong to?

Nursery rhyme

I Let's sing a song

Apple Tree

Apple round, apple red

apple juicy , apple sweet.

Apple apple I love you.

Apple sweet I love to eat.



Activity 6: Discussing and judging.

What forms do these poems belong to?

haiku

*After the day's heat,
This feathering of night rain,
Leaves put out their tongues
----Alan Maley*

Activity 6: Discussing and judging.

What forms do these poems belong to?

Tang poem

This spring morning in bed I'm lying,
Not to awake till birds are crying.
After one night of wind and showers,
How many are the fallen flowers?
(by Meng Haoran)

Activity 7: Reflecting and summarizing.

Have you got **a new understanding** about poems?

Bring you joy and fun;

Enlighten you in the deep heart;

Appreciate the beautiful things in life;

Use a new perspective to observe the world;

Teach you to listen to your inner voice;

Inspire you to sing for the beauty of life;

Forget the unhappy things;

Understand the importance of human bonds;

Love to express your emotions in the poems.

Poems are **beautiful!**

Homework

- 1. Share the poems you have written with the class.**
- 2. Choose your favorite poem and vote for the favorite poet in your class.**