

ALLITERATION

There are several sorts of combinations of sound that can take the place of rhyme. These include *imperfect rhyme* (spot - parrot), *unaccented rhyme* (butter - mother), *half-rhyme* (down - drowning), *dissonant rhyme* (bike - fight), *assonance* or vowel rhyme, *alliteration* or consonant rhyme and *consonance*. Alliteration is one of the oldest forms of poetry and the easiest to play with.

Alliteration: creating tongue twisters

Pick a letter, a personal letter, perhaps the initial of your name .. and try to write the longest sentence in which every word starts with that letter. The sentence should make sense even if it is not sensible. A good way of building such a sentence is to first construct a core phrase:

NOUN DOGS

VERB DESTROY

NOUN DINOSAURS

and then surround each of the words in the phrase with adjectives and adverbs, then lengthen it by conjunction and preposition and build up supplementary phrases:

Dirty dreaming DOGS dizzily drunkenly DESTROY dangerous damp dreary DINOSAURS down disgustingly damp dungeons during dismal December days.

It will help if a first, example, sentence is constructed on a blackboard or large sheet of paper. The finished sentence, and subsequent individual ones, can be written on long strips of paper and hung as banners, or rolled out as carpets.

Lesson Plan:

Hand out sheets of paper.

Invite students to jot down as many words as they can think of that start with the first sound of their name: Steven: seven, snowboarding, splendid, stiff, soccer, etc. etc.

Tell them to not worry about printing neatly or about spelling mistakes but rather to focus on writing as many words as possible in a short time.

When students have a sheet full of words (nouns, verbs, adjectives) ask them to construct a sentence, a tongue twister. When they finish their first draft, ask them to edit by adding more adjectives, more possible words. The tongue twister can be nonsense but the sentence should still make sense:

Silly Steven sailed the seven seas to Sweden. He sat still and sensed a sevenheaded snake near his sneakers so he speedily sought a safe spot to slip away.

References: use books by Pamela Duncan Edwards: Four Famished Foxes, Dinorella, Some Smug Slug, Clara Caterpillar or Watch William Walk by Ann Jonas.