

KIDS' ACTIVITY GUIDE

Ryan O'Brian is riding a wave of inspiration with no shoreline in sight—he can't STOP writing poetry. In the cafeteria with french fries. In the bathroom with toothpaste. Even on the soccer field with mud! Has he reached an artistic crescendo with a sonnet on the staircase and a villanelle on the shower curtain? What next?

The Poem That Will Not End is an innovative and fun exploration of poetry. Ryan O'Brian takes the reader with him on a poetic journey as he writes poetry everywhere and about everything. From couplets to an acrostic, Ryan will expose your child to fifteen different poetic forms and five voices. *The Poem That Will Not End* weaves Ryan's poems into both the verse and the illustrations. Children will use creative writing to write their own poems and even explore the solar system.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. What is a poem?
2. What are your favorite activities?
3. What is a rhyme?
4. Have you ever used a rhyme to help you remember something?
5. What are three words that describe you?
6. What is your favorite food?
7. What is a solar system?
8. What is an acrostic?
9. What is a couplet?

The questions above will set the stage for reading *The Poem That Will Not End* and introduce your child to some of the concepts in the book.

“SOCCER BALL” SOLAR SYSTEM ACTIVITY:

In “Soccer Ball” Ryan uses a “solar system” *metaphor*—a comparison, saying one thing is something else. (The soccer ball is the “sun”—everything revolves around it.) Discuss the sun and our solar system. Make a papier-mâché ball solar system with your child.

Materials

Balloons
Old newspapers cut into strips
Flour
Water
Melon ballers (½ inch and 1 inch)
Foam block
Paint
A ruler
String
Paper clips



Making papier-mâché paste:

Mix together one part flour to two parts water. Pour the flour and water in a large bowl and stir it well. Keep mixing until there are very few lumps left and it is runny. Add more water or flour as necessary.

You should be able to store this glue in a covered bowl or jar, in the refrigerator, for a few days.

Making the Planets:

Scaling your solar system is easy using this website: http://www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/solar_system

You simply decide how large you want the sun to be, plug it into the calculator, and it will tell you how big to make each planet.

I recommend setting the sun at 160 inches, or roughly 13 feet in diameter.

For the smaller planets, use the melon baller to make foam balls.

For the larger planets, blow up the balloons to their corresponding size and follow these directions:

Tie string around the balloon ends ahead of time. Your child will dip strips of newspaper into the paste, gently run the strip between his/her fingers to remove excess paste, and lay it flat on the balloon. This is repeated until the balloon is covered with a good layer of strips. The balloon must be set aside to dry overnight.

For your foam planets you will need to insert a paper clip in the ball from which to hang from the ceiling with string.

After the papier-mâché planets are dry, paint them appropriately.

Mercury: Red on one side, black on the other

Venus: Light greenish-yellow, or very light brown

Earth: Blue and green with white poles

Mars: Red

Jupiter: Swirls of browns and reds

Saturn: Pink and light blue or beige (remember Saturn has rings)

Uranus: Light blue

Neptune: Slightly darker than Uranus

After the planets are dry, hang from your ceiling, in correct order from the sun to Neptune. If you have a large enough room, you can declare one corner of the room the sun and actually hang them to scale from that corner using the solar-system builder website.

PLUTO THE “DWARF PLANET”

In 1930, Clyde looked in the sky,
a tiny, cold rock glimmered, caught his eye.

Named it for Pluto, in mythology—
the ninth planet is what it must be.

For 76 years all children were taught,
“Pluto’s a planet”—but all was for naught.

In 2006 some scientists felt,
Pluto was actually part of a belt.

Pluto is now considered a “Dwarf Planet.” Read more about Pluto at NASA’s website:

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/what-is-pluto-k4.html>

“RECESS” ACROSTIC ACTIVITY:

Your child will create and write an original “Recess” acrostic poem. An acrostic is a poem where the first letters of each line spell out a word or phrase. The word or phrase can be anything you like.

To get started, provide your child with two light-colored pieces of construction paper and writing materials (markers or colored pencils). To start creative thinking, have your child draw a picture of what recess is like at his/her school on one of the pieces of paper. On the back of that sheet of paper, he/she will write the word RECESS in capital letters vertically down the left side of the page. Your child will then write words about recess horizontally out from each of the letters. Each word or phrase will start with one of the capital vertical letters.

On the second sheet of paper, have your child write his or her name vertically down the left-hand side of the paper. He/she will now write a first person acrostic, focusing on character traits, physical traits, activities, etc.

“COUPLET FOR FRENCH FRIES” BRAINSTORMING/COUPLET ACTIVITY:

A couplet is two lines of verse that follow in order and are the same length. Most couplets include a rhyme. In this lesson your child will use “Couplet for French Fries,” to create a couplet for his/her favorite food.

Brainstorm about the favorite food your child enjoys. Give him/her two sheets of paper, one for drawing and one for writing. Have your child draw a picture of a favorite food using crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers. Come up with five to seven descriptive words which he/she will write down around the picture of the food chosen.

After coming up with the descriptive words, your child will write a couplet or two about the food. You may want to make a few couplets about your own favorite food to use as an example.



“TIRED” FREE VERSE LESSON:

Free verse is a seemingly simple type of poetry that doesn’t constrict the poet with rules about rhyme and meter. “Tired” and “Soccer Ball” are examples of free verse. Your child will create a free verse poem. There are many resources for definitions of poems and free verse on the web. Here are two sites to find examples to share:

<http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-free-verse-poems.html>

http://www.poetrysoup.com/poems/free_verse

For this activity, you and your child will go outside. Before going out, explain to him/her tips on how to examine the environment, and that afterward the observations will be used to write a poem. Have your child bring a notebook or a sheet of paper and something to write with, or guide your child to answer the following questions when you come back inside.

Your child will then create a five-to-ten-line free verse poem using the key words that are thought of from the observations.

"TIRED" FREE VERSE CHART AND POEM

OBSERVATIONS	CHILD'S ANSWERS	KEY WORDS
What did you SEE?		
What did you HEAR?		
What did you SMELL?		
What did you TASTE?		
How did you FEEL?		

Free Verse Poem:

Create a five-to-ten-line free verse poem using the key words you came up with from your observations.

THE POEM THAT WILL NOT END POEM MATCH

Match the type of poetic form at the top to the poem at the bottom by filling in the blank.

Cinquain – (SIN'-kane) The secret code for this poem is 2, 4, 6, 8, 2: two syllables/beats on the first line, four beats on the next, then six beats, eight, and back to two beats in the last line. It's a building thought-wave that crashes and leaves some treasure.

Concrete Poem – It's a picture poem that takes the shape of what it's about—word art, sculpting with words. Use simple shapes—make it easy to read.

Haiku – A Japanese form which, in only seventeen syllables (5-7-5), can create a feeling or paint a scene; usually it's about nature and is written now, in present tense; makes you say "Ah ha!" or "Oh, yeah!"

Limerick – A funny five-line poem written in iambs and anapests; lines 1, 2, and 5 have three feet and rhyme, and lines 3 and 4 have two feet and rhyme.

Quatrains – A four-line stanza or poem that usually rhymes; code—abcb, abab, abba (The letters tell which lines rhyme with each other.)

Tanka – A Japanese form, which includes a haiku and adds two more seven-syllable lines to extend or change the meaning: 5-7-5-7-7.

Triolet – This eight-line form has one line that repeats three times. Lines 1, 4, and 7 are the same; lines 2 and 8 also match. The first two lines become the last two lines. Got it? Code: abaaabab.

1. Fishing – _____

There are poems that swim in my head,
they take form as I lie in my bed.
With my pen for a hook,
I might quick have a look,
and then catch them on paper instead.

2. Captured – _____

I'm captured, won't you help me find a way,
to free me from this urgent need to write?
It follows me and hounds me night and day.
I'm captured, won't you help me find a way,
to toss aside this curse—I want to play!
You must admit...this is a scary sight.
I'm captured, won't you help me find a way,
to free me from this urgent need to write?

3. The Baseball Game – _____

The kids creamed the teachers,
listen to the score:
The third graders beat them—
twenty-five to four!

We got them out at second,
we caught their pop flies.
We got them out at home plate,
much to their surprise.

When we scored all the home runs,
we screamed and made a fuss.
We may get Ds in English,
but in baseball we're A+!

4. Feet – _____

My Feet—
they can't stay still.
They are always moving
to some cool rhythm I hear in
my head.

5. Soccer Ball – _____

Soccer ball,
you are the center,
sun of our universe.
We are planets orbiting
your supreme presence,
hoping to rocket you,
like a blazing comet,
into the galaxy of
our goal.

6. Goose Down Pillow – _____

My head sinks into
the feathered pillow; I think
I hear geese whisper.

7. Speechless – _____

Sometimes when I am
asked to speak, my tongue shrivels,
dries, and disappears,
and then my mouth becomes a
hollow bell with no ringer.

THE POEM THAT WILL NOT END FUNNY FILL-IN

First, without looking at the bottom, creatively choose words to complete the list at the top. Then fill in those words in the spaces at the bottom to make your own funny poem. Read it aloud and enjoy.

Words for "Fishing" Fill-in

Verb – _____
Body Part – _____
Noun – _____
Noun – _____
Adverb – _____
Verb – _____

Words for "The Baseball Game" Fill-in

Verb – _____ Verb – _____
Verb – _____ Past Tense Verb – _____
Number – _____ Number – _____
Number – _____ Language – _____
Verb – _____ Sport – _____

Fishing Funny Fill-in

There are poems that _____ in my _____,
 verb body part
they take form as I lie in my _____.
 noun
With my _____ for a hook,
 noun
I might _____ have a look,
 adverb
and then _____ them on paper instead.
 verb

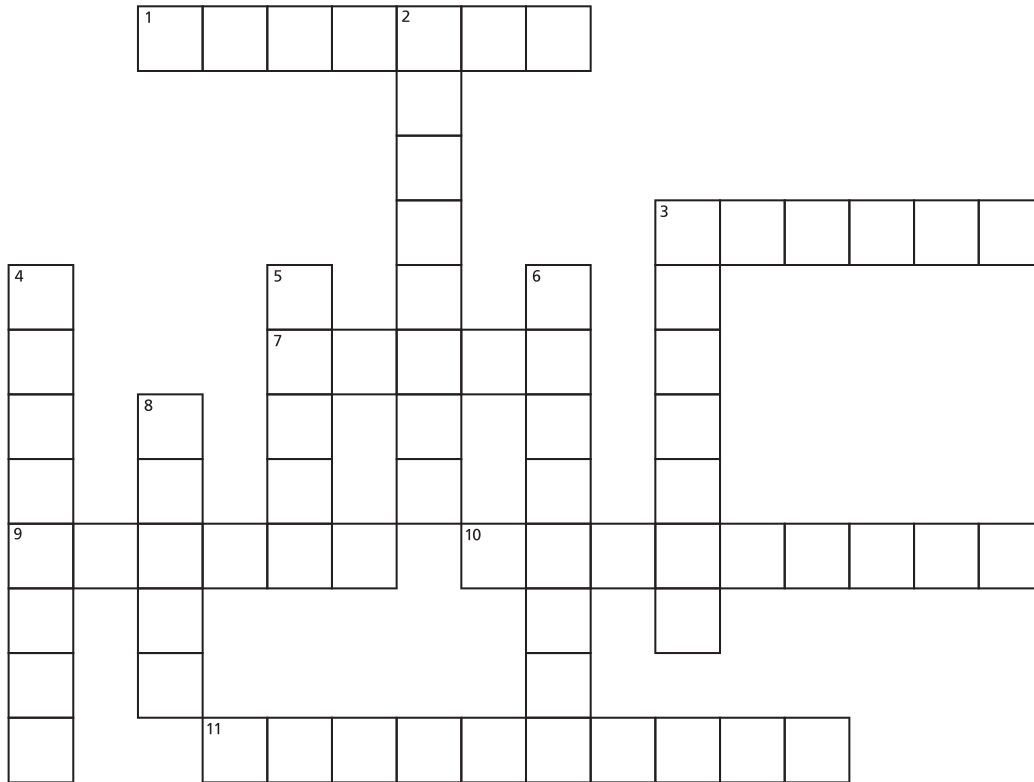
The Baseball Game Funny Fill-in

The kids _____ the teachers,
 verb
listen to the score:
The third graders _____ them—
 verb
_____ to _____!
 number number
We _____ them out at second,
 verb
we _____ their pop flies.
 verb
We got them out at home plate,
much to their surprise.
When we _____ _____ home runs
 past tense verb number
we screamed and made a fuss.
We may get Ds in _____,
 language
but in _____ we're A+!
 sport



THE POEM THAT WILL NOT END CROSSWORD

You can find the definitions of these words and more at the back of the book.



Across

- Two lines that usually rhyme.
- A three-line, usually rhyming, poem or stanza.
- A Japanese form which, in only 17 syllables (5-7-5), can create a feeling or paint a scene; usually it's about nature and is written now, in present tense.
- The code for this is abbaabba, cdecde, or cdcdd. There is an octave (8 lines) and a sestet (6 lines). In the octave there are two envelope rhymes (that's the bb part) tucked into the middles.
- A poem written without using a fixed, formal pattern of rhythm and rhyme.
- A French form, usually five stanzas of three lines each, with a final stanza of four lines. There are two strong repeating lines.

Down

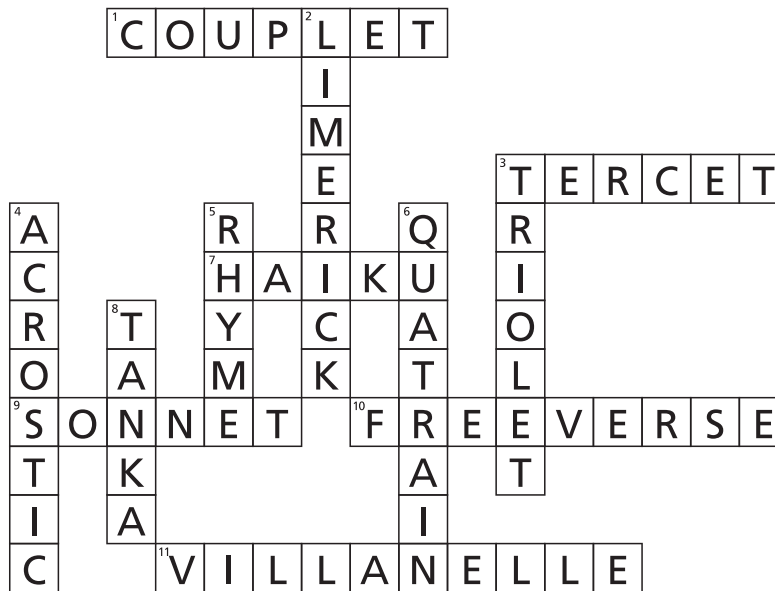
- A funny five-line poem written in iambs and anapests; lines 1, 2, and 5 have three feet and rhyme, and lines 3 and 4 have two feet and rhyme.
- This eight-line form has one line that repeats three times. Lines 1, 4, and 7 are the same; lines 2 and 8 also match. The first two lines become the last two lines, code: abaaabab.
- If you spell a word downward, you can use each of the letters as the beginning of a word or phrase.
- A repetition of sounds at the ends of words and usually at the end of a line: score/four.
- A four-line stanza or poem that usually rhymes; code—abcb, abab, abba. The letters tell which lines rhyme with each other.
- A Japanese form, which includes a haiku and adds two more seven-syllable lines to extend or change the meaning: 5-7-5-7-7.

THE POEM THAT WILL NOT END ANSWER KEY

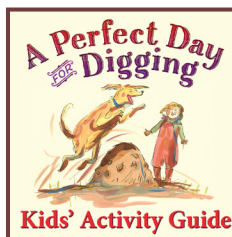
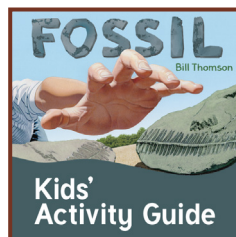
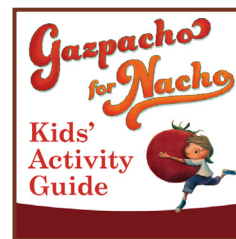
Poem Match Key

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Fishing - Limerick | 5. Soccer Ball - Concrete Poem |
| 2. Captured - Triolet | 6. Goose Down Pillow - Haiku |
| 3. The Baseball Game - Quatrains | 7. Speechless - Tanka |
| 4. Feet - Cinquain | |

Crossword Key



CLICK ON THE KIDS' ACTIVITY GUIDES BELOW FOR MORE FUN!



This guide was created by Chris Valcarcel, Educational Consultant, and Jennifer Messinger, Graphic Designer.

Do you have questions or feedback for Amazon Children's Publishing? Email us at:
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