

Aims

- ❖ To write poetry that uses sound to create effects
- ❖ To investigate and experiment with:
 - onomatopoeia
 - alliteration
 - distinctive rhythms

Resources:

- ❖ Kids' Castle website: <http://www.kidsonthenet.com/castle> Click on the Tournament
- ❖ A [downloadable activity sheet](#)

Introduction

There is information on what a medieval tournament would have been like on the Kids' Castle website. This can be used as a starting point for discussion. One of the most distinctive aspects of a tournament would have been the different sounds coming from the crowds, the horses and the jousting knights. Writing poems based on these sounds is an excellent way of creating interesting effects.

Activities and points for discussion

- ❖ Get the children to shut their eyes: what sounds can they hear, that tell them they are in a school? Imagine that they were at the seaside/ at a football match/ in a busy town etc: what sounds would give away their location?
- ❖ Look at the Tournament on the Kids' Castle website.
- ❖ Read some of the poems already submitted by other children.
- ❖ Class discussion: What sorts of sounds might they hear at a tournament? Brainstorm and write plenty of suggestions on the board or an OHP.
- ❖ Pick out a few onomatopoeia (e.g. CRASH! THUD! etc), and discuss how they work.
- ❖ Ask children to create some **alliterative phrases**, using words from the board along with their own linking words. (e.g. clattering clumsily, thunderous thudding etc)
- ❖ Talk about how **rhythm** can be used to create effects: you can base the rhythms on things like the beat of a drum or the sound of horses' hooves. Alternatively the rhythms could come entirely from the combinations of words used, and the structure of the phrases.
- ❖ Discuss the importance of **syllables** in creating rhythms. Clap out some of the rhythms created by the phrases suggested by the children.
- ❖ Use the [downloadable activity sheet](#) to write a sound poem. It has a reminder to the children to use some of the above techniques in writing their poems.
- ❖ You can submit a poem by using the form in 'Write a poem' or by e-mail to info@kidsonthenet.com Discuss how sound can evoke atmosphere and create effects. Use onomatopoeia, alliteration, distinctive rhythms etc

Follow Up

- ❖ Copy some of the poems onto an OHP and collaborate on improving the alliteration, onomatopoeia or rhythms.
- ❖ Read the finished poems out loud.
- ❖ Turn some of the poems into short performances by the use of choral reading and the addition of other sound effects.
- ❖ Link some of the poems and perform in sequence, to give a more rounded 'sound picture' of the Tournament as a whole. This could form the basis of a class assembly.

Children's writing and scanned pictures can be sent to <http://www.kidsonthenet.com/>