

Aims

- ❖ To write poems based on personal or imagined experience
- ❖ Linking these to poems read
- ❖ Listing brief phrases and words for use in the poems
- ❖ experimenting by:
 - trimming and extending sentences
 - using powerful and expressive verbs

Resources:

Kids' Castle website: <http://www.kidsonthenet.com/castle> (click on The Tournament) and a [downloadable activity sheet](#).
http://www.kidsonthenet.com/teachers/downloads/Y4t1obj14experiencepoems1_as.doc

Introduction

Poems written in the first person, based on real or imagined experience have a sense of immediacy and drama. This activity encourages children to look at the poetry of others, and experiment by changing certain aspects of it. This is then followed up by writing new poems from scratch, on the theme of the imagined experience of visiting a medieval tournament.

Activities and points for discussion

- ❖ Look at the poems on the Tournament page of the Kids' Castle website
- ❖ Choose one or two to use as examples, and write them on the board or project them for the whole class or group to see. Go through the poem:
 - highlighting any good lines or phrases
 - picking out phrases that could be improved
 - experimenting by trimming sentences
 - experimenting by lengthening sentences
- ❖ Discuss the importance of powerful verbs when writing about a real or imagined experience: the idea is to draw the reader (or listener) into the experience and make it as real as possible for them too.
- ❖ Use the [downloadable activity sheet](#) to write a poem about attending a tournament. This can be used independently by individual children, or children in pairs, or by small groups with a teacher leading.
- ❖ If a slightly more involved project is envisaged, it would be possible to organise the class into writing from specific points of view, so the tournament can be seen from the first hand experience of a knight, a lady, a juggler, one of the horses etc.
- ❖ Finished poems can be [submitted](#) to the Kids on the Net site for possible inclusion. Submission form: <http://www.kidsonthenet.com/about/write.htm>

Follow Up

- ❖ Poems can be read out to the class, or built up for performance into in a class assembly.

The URL of this teachers' note is
http://www.kidsonthenet.com/teachers/downloads/Y4t1obj14experiencepoems1_tn.doc

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