

Write Your Own Nature Poem



Stage: 2-3



Time: 1-2 hours

Summary: Following on from our Robert Burns and the Environment Live Lesson, we invite pupils to write their own poem inspired by the nature around them, using Scots language if they wish.

Curricular Links

LIT 2-3-01a, 2-3-03a, 2-3-20a, 2-3-21a, 2-3-22a, 2-3-23a, ENG 2-3-12a, 2-3-13a, 2-3-27a, 2-3-30a, 2-3-31a, SOC 2-3-02a, 2-3-04a, 2-3-08a

Introduction

Our Robert Burns and the Environment Live Lesson focused on the poet's connection to the natural world and some of the Scot's language he used in his poems. In this activity we invite pupils to take inspiration from Robert Burns, and the natural world on their doorstep, to compose their own poems. As this year the Scottish Government passed [The Scottish Languages Bill 2025](#), which recognises Scots as an official language and supports more Gaelic and Scots education in Scotland, it would be great if pupils chose to include some Scots words in their poems, but this is entirely up to them.

Activity

First, to get inspiration for their poems, pupils will need to connect to the nature on their doorstep.

- Invite pupils to go for a walk outside and see what nature they can spot.
- Encourage them to connect to nature with all their senses, including sight, sound, smell and touch.
- Ask pupils what seasonal changes they notice in the nature around them.

Next, invite pupils to read some Robert Burns poems that feature nature. We suggest:

- [Composed in August](#)
- [To a Mouse](#)
- [To a Mountain Daisy](#)
- [The Vision](#)
- [The Humble Petition of the Bruar Water](#)

Now it's time for pupils to write their poems. This can be completed inside or outside.

- Poems can be in any format that pupils choose.
- Poems can be written from a pupil's own viewpoint, or from the viewpoint of the nature they are writing about.
- Invite pupils to use Scots words in their poems. We included the meaning of several Scots words in our Live Lesson, but pupils can also use words from Scots poems they have read (including Robert Burns's poems), or look Scots words up in an online dictionary: [Essential English-Scots Dictionary](#).
- Poems do not need to rhyme, but it may be fun to try and make rhymes with Scots words.
- Invite pupils to read their poems aloud to each other and discuss the meaning of any Scots words they have used.