

## WRITE YOUR OWN BIRD POEM

Would you like to write a bird poem?

Choose a picture of a bird, or think of one you know well.

I chose sparrows. Come back to the title at the end.

1) What does this type of bird like to do?

**Make notes. Write a list.**

*Actions, speed, positions*

They jump  
Come from nowhere  
Always interested in food scraps  
More come when you feed one  
Always moving

### **Poetry format:**

Make it more personal by using 'I' sentences.  
Use similes and metaphors to paint a picture: looks like, sounds like...

*Falling like an autumn leaf  
He jumps to get the crumbs I've dropped*

2) What does the bird look like and sound like?

**Notes about appearance and sounds:**

*Size, colour, shape, sounds, special features*

Brown shades  
Head on one side  
Bright eyes  
Fits in your hand  
When he stops flying his wings disappear

### **Poetry format:**

Tell details about this particular bird. Make a word-picture.

*With his wings in his pockets  
His bright eye winks.  
I want to pick him up  
And feel the tremble of his little life.*

3) Where do you find these birds?

**Notes about the place these birds live:**

*Mood, background, foreground, time of day*

In city parks  
Wherever anyone eats lunch

### **Poetry format:**

*His sisters and brothers always find me  
Whenever I eat lunch outside*

4) What do you think about this bird ? (What do you like or dislike about this bird? How is this bird similar to some people you know?)

**Notes about your opinions:**

*This is the point of the poem.*

*Tell your reactions, feelings, and opinions.*

I admire the way he seems busy and happy. I like how he doesn't worry. I like how he spots food. Most busy people I know are always in a hurry and worry too much. He is different to them.

**Poetry format:**

Personify your bird.

*My sparrow friend can spot a sandwich anywhere in the park:  
Such a busy fellow, but he doesn't own a phone!*

5) Give your poem a title

The title could tell the bird's character. You don't have to use the name of the bird for the title, but it needs to be in the poem somewhere.

I called my poem: ***Lunch-friend***

6) Edit your poem

Call your first effort the *sloppy copy*. Leave it for at least a week. Come back and see what you like and what you want to change. This becomes the *proper copy*.

7) Enjoy your poem

Write it in your best writing, or type it on the computer. Illustrate and decorate it. Copy it for your mum, dad, neighbour or your teacher, (someone you know who would like it).

And then ... you can write another one.

***Lunch-friend*** by ***Jeanette Swan***

*Falling like an autumn leaf*

*He jumps to get the scraps I've dropped.*

*With his wings in his pockets, his bright eye winks.*

*I want to pick him up and feel the tremble of his little life.*

*His brothers and sisters always find me whenever I eat  
lunch outside;*

*My sparrow friend can spot a sandwich anywhere in the  
park.*

*Such a busy fellow, but he doesn't own a phone.*

## WRITE A DIFFERENT KIND OF POEM

Write a poem that plays with sounds using alliteration.

- 1) Choose a theme: You might like to use a colour or feeling for the theme. Poetry is often about your senses and emotions.  
*I'm choosing the colour **blue**.*
- 2) List as many words as you can think of that start with the same sound (even if they have nothing to do with the theme). Try and think of action words (verbs) and describing words (adjectives) as well as things (nouns).  
***Blue**, blink, black, blast, blimp, bug, balloon, ball, basin, bag, back, bomb, beach, best, break, bruise...*
- 3) Write phrases and sentences using these words (and any more you think of).  
*Blue waves break on the beach, Bruises are black and blue blotches, babies dribble on balls, There's a bug on my brother's back...*
- 4) Arrange the phrases and sentences. Choose the ones you like best.
- 5) Edit: Leave your poem for at least a week. Decide on your favourite parts. Keep these. Change and add phrases and sentences. Keep going until you are happy with your poem.
- 6) Share your poem.

### Blue Bath

*Blue eyes blink,*

*Blue waves ripple.*

*Blue boats float*

*On blue bubbles.*

*Baby burbles in her blue bath.*

### Blue Days

*Blast and bother, another blue day blinks.*

*I burst my balloon.*

*I broke my best model in blithering bits.*

*It's all going bad, but baddest of all -*

*The bug that I put in my bad brother's drink*

*Is in my belly*

*Because I forgot about it.*