

COLOR POETRY

Using colors in your poetry can evoke strong sensory images for the reader. When your entire poem is about one color, the effect is quite dramatic. Look at these examples of Color Poetry. Notice: you experience different feelings and emotions with each poem.

MORNING BLUE

Matthew, age 10

Blue is as fluffy as cotton candy.
Blue is cloudless sky and berry pie
and the feeling of rest.
Blue is sapphire, indigo, and denim.
Blue is the cold taste of mint mouthwash.
Blueberry pancakes and early morning rain
smell blue.
Loneliness makes me feel blue.
Blue is the sound of scrub jays screeching
and ocean waves crashing.
Far-stretching sea and Hawaii are blue.
Blue is endless.

TICKLED PINK

Courtney, age 13

Pink is as fragile as delicate porcelain.
Pink is rosy cheeks and flamingoes and
the feeling of bashfulness.
Pink is fuchsia, salmon, and rose.
Pink is the taste of sweet candy hearts
and watermelon Kool-Aid.
Juicy strawberries and blooming
carnations smell pink.
Being in love makes me feel pink.
Pink is the sound of romantic songs and
old church hymns.
Giggling and painted sunsets are pink.
Pink is sweet and shy.

CALIFORNIA CASUAL

Kaeli, age 15

Orange is as exotic as a brilliant tiger lily.
Orange is skittish clownfish and cool cantaloupes
and the feeling of fizzy Fanta tickling my nose.
Orange is peach, copper, and melon.
Orange is the tangy taste of California citrus.
Spicy cinnamon and delicate orange blossoms
smell orange.
Orange is the sound of a crackling fire and Spanish
guitars.
Cruising the Caribbean and dancing the Mambo are
orange.
Orange is laughter on the beach at sunset.

Color Poem Brainstorming Worksheet

Directions

Choose a color for your poem. Write it here: _____

Fill in the following blanks with "color" ideas, words, and phrases. Some of these ideas are abstract. Does a color really have a "smell" or a "taste"? Try to think creatively!

We've used (blue) as an example. Change it to your own color, writing at least three or four things for each list.

List 1 What things look (blue)? _____

List 2 What things sound (blue)? _____

List 3 What things smell (blue)? _____

List 4 How does (blue) feel (*textures, temperatures, objects, etc.*). Avoid emotion words, but many others will work here. _____

List 5 What emotions make you feel (blue)? Find ideas here: [Emotion Words](#).

List 6 What tastes (blue)? _____

List 7 What experiences, sights, and ideas seem (blue)? _____

List 8 Can you think of any places that look or feel (blue)? _____

List 9 What are four synonyms for your color? Visit these websites for ideas: [Color Thesaurus](#) and [Color Names](#). Do your **synonym choices make sense**? For example, *cornflower*, *periwinkle*, and *turquoise* are good synonyms for "blue," but *dodger*, *cadet*, and *colt* will not make sense.

Writing Your Color Poem

Directions

1. Fill in the blanks below using words and phrases from your brainstorming lists. Write your color word on each bold, dark line.
2. Use a simile, which compares two things using *like* or *as* (*soft as a lamb, loud as thunder*).
3. Make each word count!
 - **Do not** repeat any main words (except for the color word you have chosen).
 - Use interesting, specific nouns. For example, instead of *bird*, choose *canary, cardinal, or parakeet*. Instead of sports car, choose *Corvette, Viper, or Ferrari*.
 - Use strong verbs. For instance, replace *moving* or *going* with *flitting, racing, or soaring*.
 - Add descriptive adjectives where appropriate, such as *juicy, ripe, or plump* strawberries.
4. Think of a clever or creative title. It doesn't have to include the color word, but it may.
5. When finished, read your color poem out loud to hear how it flows. Replace any dull words.
6. Write or type your final draft onto fresh paper. Use a special font, if you wish.
7. **Do not** write your poem in paragraph form. Begin each sentence on a new line, like the samples on page 1. If a sentence continues onto a second line, *indent* the second line.

(Title)

_____ is as _____ as _____. (Simile/any lists)

_____ is _____ and _____. (List 1)

and the feeling of _____. (List 4)

_____ is _____, _____, and _____. (List 9)

_____ is the taste of _____. (List 6)

_____ and _____ smell _____. (List 3)

_____ makes me feel _____. (List 5)

_____ is the sound of _____ and _____. (List 2)

_____ and _____ are _____. (Lists 7, 8)

_____ is _____. (Any list—not a word already used)

Want to Do More? Plan and write another poem, choosing a different color as the subject.