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.



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.

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.

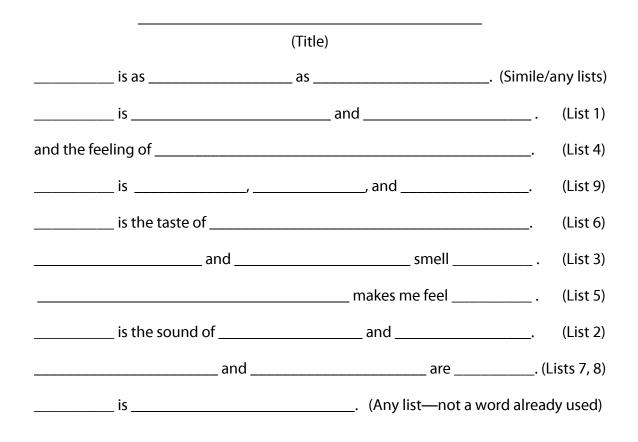
List 1	What things look (blue)?	
List 2	What things sound (blue)?	
List 3	What things smell (blue)?	
List 4	How does (blue) feel <i>(textures, temperatures, objects, etc.)</i> . Avoid emotion words, but many others will work here.	
List 5	What emotions make you feel (blue)? Find idea	as here: <u>Emotion Words</u> .
List 6		
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:	

<u>Color Thesaurus</u> and <u>Color Names</u>. 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.



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