

Class poem about a special end-of-year event

Based on an idea from Robyn English in the book *Tadpoles in the Torrens: Poems for young readers, Teachers' Edition*, edited by Jude Aquilina, Wakefield Press, 2016.

Class poems make a great assembly item or a contribution to a school yearbook.

Purpose

To write a collective class poem

Motivation and generating ideas

Tell the students they are going to write a poem about a special end-of-year event. The event could be an assembly, athletics day or a class trip or graduation ceremony.

Think, pair, share

Students discuss their memories.

Sharing an exemplar

Share the *Athletics Day* poem to show students the structure of the poem they will be writing. Ask 'What do you notice about this poem?' Share responses.

Think, pair, record

Students work with a partner to brainstorm ideas for a poem about the event. Students record three or four lines on whiteboards, devices or in their books. The teacher could scribe for younger students.

Think, pair, square (page 41, The Oral Language Book)

Ask students to share their memories with another pair. The group helps each student to decide on their best line.

Reviewing

Ask students to 'self-check' their lines for accuracy. They could also work with a partner to review and improve their sentences based on agreed criteria. For example, upgrade (improve) a word.

Lesson wrap-up

Students share their line. As a class, agree on the repeated line for the class poem.

The teacher or a group of students collates the class poem.

Performance (Reader's Theatre)

Give students their own copy of the poem. Assign different parts to the students. For example, in the *Athletics Day* poem, the boys and girls read one line each and everyone reads the repeated line. The class then practises reading the poem. Focus on: reading together, using appropriate expression, varying the pace and volume of the reading. This may require modelling from the teacher.