



Summer Poetry

Reading poetry can be a very relaxing and comforting activity. Research shows that participants in poetry based activities have positive reactions, showing positive facial expressions, laughter and social interaction within the group.

Here's a fun activity based on "The Swing" by Robert Louis Stevenson that can be done with one to four participants.

Benefits

- Comforting
- Familiar to most people
- Social
- Evokes emotions

Prepare the Activity

Print two copies of the attached poem. Laminate the sheets if you have a laminator. Cut one of the copies into strips so that one line of the poem is on each strip. Cut each page of the other copy in half so that there are three lines on each half page template.

Basic Preparation

It's easy to overlook, but the success of any activity can depend on some basic preparation.

Preparation

- Is the person comfortable?
- Is the area free from distractions?
- Is the lighting in the room appropriate for this activity?
- If the person requires glasses, are they wearing them?
Are they clean?

Refer to the "[Presenting an Activity, Start to Finish](#)" article on our website for more details.

When possible, you should demonstrate the activity first, showing what is expected while using as few words as possible to describe it. When you are finished the activity, thank the person for participating and ask if they would like to do it again sometime.

Presenting the Activity

Activity One

1. Read the first line of the poem out loud and have the participants repeat it. Do this for each of the lines of the poem.
2. When finished, encourage discussion about the poem and any memories that the participants may have about it.

Activity Two

Distribute the strips to the participants randomly. As you read the poem out loud, have the participants offer up the matching line.

Activity Three

1. Hand each person in the group one of the half page templates, along with the corresponding strips. Have them put the strips over the corresponding line on the template.
2. For more challenge, give the participant more than one template at a time, or give them more strips than match the template.

Presenting

- Read the poem aloud, line by line
- Read the poem aloud and have participants offer up matching lines
- Match the lines to their place on the template

You May Also Like...

If the person enjoyed this poetry activity they may enjoy our other word games and puzzles, including Word Searches, Sequenced Crossword puzzles and more. You can find them in the [Word Puzzles section of our website](#). They may also like [Expressions](#) or [Rhyming Expressions](#).



Thank you for downloading this free activity from Keeping Busy. We hope that you find it beneficial. Please [visit our website](#) to see all of our engaging activities.

How do you like to go up
in a swing,

Up in the air so blue?

Oh, I do think it the
pleasantest thing

Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over
the wall,

Till I can see so wide,

River and trees and
cattle and all

Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the
garden green,

Down on the roof so brown—

Up in the air I go flying
again,

Up in the air and down!