



Nature Poetry



Poets from all cultures have found ideas for their work from being out in nature. Why not see if you can find some nature poetry to read? Poems can be long, short, serious or silly! Take a walk in the beautiful wilderness of Cannock Chase and gather some ideas for poems of your own.

Write a haiku

One very short type of poem is a haiku. This is a type of poem from Japan. It has seventeen syllables: 5 in the first line, 7 in the next line and 5 in the last line.

What is a syllable? It's a bit like the beat of a drum. If your name is Tom, your name has one syllable. If your name is Benjamin, it has three syllables: Ben-jamin. If your name is Elizabeth, your name has four syllables: E-li-za-beth. How many syllables does your name have?

Write your name here:

My name has syllables.



This is a haiku about a nightjar, which is an unusual bird that visits Cannock Chase from South Africa each year to lay its eggs:

Nightjars look like bark
nesting on the heathland ground
Careful where you tread!

Find out about some other animals that live on Cannock Chase.



Can you write a haiku about one of the animals?

Write an acrostic poem

Another fun type of poem to try writing is called an acrostic poem. Here, the first letters of a word start each line of your poem.



This is an acrostic using the word "HEATHLAND." Heathland is a very rare habitat. Cannock Chase has the largest area of Heathland in the Midlands and it is a protected landscape, because it is so precious.

Heather
Edged with
Ancient oaks.
Tranquil
Hillsides.
Landscapes for
All should
Never be
Destroyed.

Try writing an acrostic poem about a part of Cannock Chase that you really love. Which word will you choose to start your poem?

My chosen word is:

Write your acrostic here:



Write free poetry

Poems don't have to stick to strict patterns or rules. A poem should make the reader feel something. It should paint a picture in their mind, or bring an emotion into their heart. Free poetry means using your choice of words in any way that you want to.

When you write poetry, it can help to use your senses. Take a walk in nature and notice what you can see, hear and smell. How does being on Cannock Chase make you feel? Which are the most powerful words you can find to describe those sensations? Collect some words here: