My Poetry Toolbox
Describe the world in new and unusual ways

★ **Use similes** to compare something by using “like” or “as.”
  • I run like a flash of lightning. My brother is as sweet as an angel.
★ **Try metaphors** to say something is something else.
  • I am lightning fast. My brother is an angel.
★ **Use your 5 senses** to describe the world.
  • Write what things feel like, smell like, sound like, taste like, look like.
★ **Bright colors** paint a picture with words.
  • His face turned red, as red as a blood-red apple.
★ **Personification** is when you give something human characteristics.
  • The sun smiled on the angry clouds.
★ **Use hyperbole** or **exaggeration**.
  • When my dog wags her tail it causes a hurricane.

MAKE YOUR POETRY COME ALIVE
Use your own voice to tell your story

★ **Use story-telling** to explain what you are thinking and experiencing.
★ **Express your emotions** and describe strong feelings.
★ **Use humor** to make your writing fun and funny.
★ **Add lots of details** to bring words to life.

MAKE YOUR POETRY DANCE ON THE PAGE
Listen for music in your words

★ **Line breaks** are when you go to the next line to change the rhythm of the poem.
★ **Add rhymes** for playful sounds.
  • I start to think, and then I sink, into the paper like I was ink.
★ **Repeat** words or sentences to add flavor and style.
★ **Alliteration** uses the same first letter or sound over and over.
  • The bug bit the beetle but the beetle bit back.
★ **Onomatopoeia** is when you use words that sound like a sound.
  • Buzz, woof, honk, beep, crash, bang, choo choo, ding!
★ **Use punctuation** to MAKE YOUR POINT! Hey, why not?