

Student Samples of Definition Poems

Sadness is...

Sadness is a black cloud
on the day of your
baseball game.

Sadness is your fish
floating belly up in the
water.

Sadness is losing electricity
when your favorite show is
on TV.

Sadness is a tear
that falls from your face.

Hope is...

Hope is a tissue,
wiping away your problems and fears.

Hope is a bright sun ray,
warming your heart and soul.

Hope is a tattered teddy bear,
hugging your tears, making them
tears of joy.

Hope is a cozy, warm blanket,
protecting you from the problems of
the world.

Hope is a striving flower
in a dried and silty ground.

Hope is a butterfly,
fluttering around a garden of weeds.

Hope is a twinkling star
in a sky of black clouds.

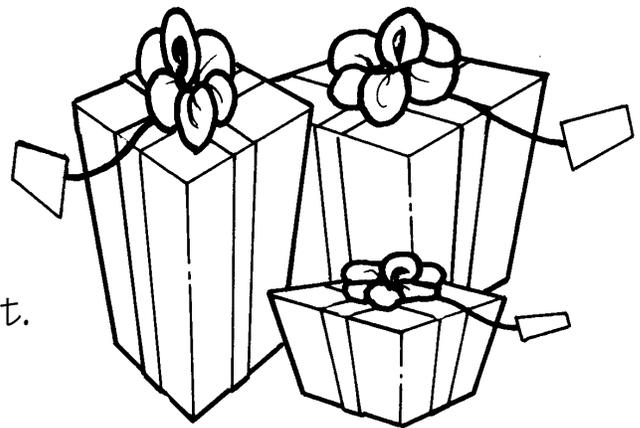
Friends are...

Friends are flowers
brightening your day.

Friends are a gift
picked only for you.

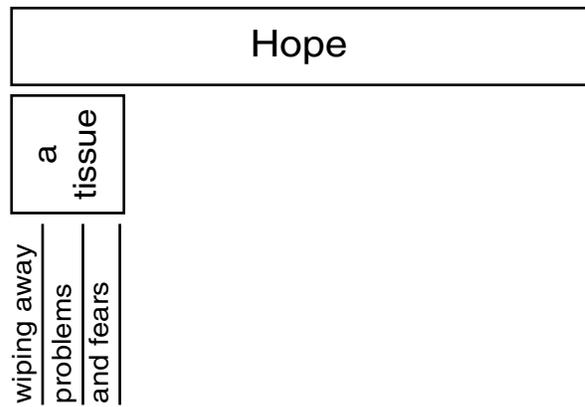
Friends are an energy source
keeping you going all day and night.

Friends are diamonds
you treasure forever.



Definition Poem Web

This web can help you to organize your thoughts and your poem. Here is an example showing how the web was used to help write the poem, "Hope is . . .":



```
graph TD; A[ ] --- B[ ]; B --- C[ ]; B --- D[ ]; B --- E[ ]; B --- F[ ]; B --- G[ ]; B --- H[ ]; B --- I[ ]; B --- J[ ]; B --- K[ ]; B --- L[ ];
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Content Connections for Definition Poems

Math

Suppose your math teacher has asked you to define a math concept such as time or money. Your teacher would like you to write a definition poem defining the math concept. Think about the meaning of the assigned word. Think about comparisons you could make to the concept. Think about what the concept means to people. Write a poem that defines the math concept using comparisons to other objects.

Language Arts

Suppose your language arts teacher has asked you to define an abstract vocabulary word, such as enthusiasm, excitement, or sympathy. Your teacher would like you to write a poem defining the assigned word. Think about the meaning of the assigned word. Think about comparisons you could make to the concept. Think about what the concept means to people. Write a poem that defines the assigned vocabulary word using comparisons to other objects.

Definition Poem Response and Assessment Sheet

Author's Name _____

Poem Title _____

Responder's Name(s) _____ Date _____

Responder:

Did the author . . .

- compare several items to the topic?
- elaborate to explain each comparison?
- choose comparisons that make sense?
- use the best possible word choice?

Revision suggestions: _____

Author:

Before writing your final copy, have you . . .

- made any necessary revisions from your peer response session?
- checked for proper spelling?
- checked for proper capitalization?
- checked for proper punctuation?

Complete the following statements to provide some information about your writing:

I had a hard time _____.

My favorite part of the poem is _____.

I would like to write another definition poem sometime. (Circle one.)

Yes No

Teacher:

_____ correct format of poem
_____ appropriate word choice
_____ neatness
_____ correct spelling and mechanics

Score: _____