

Comparing poems

Read these two poems aloud, listening to the rhythms and the sounds.

	I am the rain I like to play games like sometimes I pretend I'm going to fall Man that's the time I don't come at all Like sometimes I get these laughing stitches up my sides rushing people in and out with the clothesline I just love drip dropping down collars and spines Maybe it's a shame but it's the only way I get some fame Grace Nichols	So open my arms have room for all the world for sun and moon for birds and stars Yet how I wish I had the chance to come drifting down to earth — a simple bed sheet covering some little girl or boy just for a night but I am Sky that's why Grace Nichols
	find some pairs of slant rhymes in the per: slant rhymes are words that nearly	ese poems? List them below. rhyme. For example: pan/pun, wreck/rack.
Poem 1		
Poem 2	•••••	
both poe		
Can you	find any repeated vowel sounds in th	e poems? If so, write them below. rels. The letter y is sometimes also a vowel.
Poem 1	•••••	
Poem 2		



Investigating poems



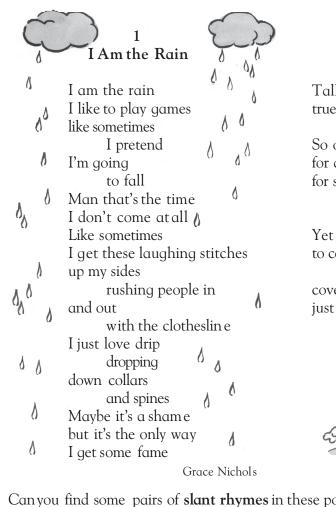
Reread both the poems . What do you notice about the punctuation in both poems?			
What do you notice about the way the poems are set out ? Look where the lines start.			
Who or what is speaking in poem 1?			
Who or what is speaking in poem 2?			
Can these poems be placed under the same heading? If so, what might that heading be?			
••••••			
What evidence is there that <i>Sky</i> and <i>I Am the Rain</i> were written by the same poet ? Answer this question by writing a paragraph ; use some of your answers to the questions above, and any other similarities you may have noticed.			

<u>DK</u>



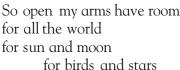
Comparing poems

Read these two poems aloud, listening to the rhythms and the sounds.

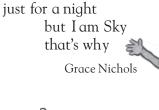


2 Sky

Tall and blue true and open



Yet how I wish I had the chance to come drifting down to earth a simple bed sheet covering some little girl or boy





Can you find some pairs of **slant rhymes** in these poems? List them below. **Remember: slant rhymes** are words that nearly rhyme. For example: pan/pun, wreck/rack.

Poem 1	rain / games / clothesline / spines
	noon / m oon

Read the **poems** again, listening to the **beat** and the **rhythm**. Are they the same in both poems?

Answers may vary

Can you find any repeated **vowel sounds** in the **poems**? If so, write them below. **Remember**: The letters **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, and **u** are **vowels**. The letter **y** is sometimes also a **vowel**.

Poem~1~ rain/play/games/shame/way/fame time/sides/line/spines

Poem 2 blue / true room / moon sky / why

Two modern poems on the theme of the weather are presented on this page. Encourage your child to read the poems out loud and to listen for the rhyming words.





Investigating poems
Reread both the poems . What do you notice about the punctuation in both poems? There is very little punctuation – mainly capital letters and apostrophes.
What do you notice about the way the poems are set out ? Look where the lines start.
The words on some lines start midway along the line.
Who or what is speaking in poem 1?
The rain is speaking in poem 1.
Who or what is speaking in poem 2? The sky is speaking in poem 2.
Can these poems be placed under the same heading? If so, what might that heading be? These poems could be described as poems about things in nature.
What evidence is there that <i>Sky</i> and <i>I Am the Rain</i> were written by the same poet? Answer this question by writing a paragraph; use some of your answers to the questions above, and any other similarities you may have noticed.

These exercises help your child to compare two poems by the same writer and to reveal similar techniques and themes. Talk to your child about the poet's use of personification (treating things that are not human as if they were people).



