



# Comparing poems

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



## 1 I Am the Rain

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



## 2 Sky

Tall and blue  
true and open

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



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 .....

Poem 2 .....

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

.....

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 .....

Poem 2 .....

# Investigating poems



Reread both the **poems**. What do you notice about the **punctuation** in both poems?

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.....

What do you notice about the way the poems are **set out**? Look where the lines start.

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.....

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 *Sky* and *I Am the Rain* 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.

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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

Poem 2 room / moon

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 *Sky* and *I Am the Rain* 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).