



## Writing Christmas poems

I love to write poems. Children do too.

Giving young children a simple structure or a repetitive pattern to start from gets them thinking about words, how they sound, what they mean, the number of syllables and letters, all the while having fun, playing with words and sounds and learning about language.


Christmas is a great time for writing poems.

The poems can be “published” inside a card, on a calendar, presented on a scroll or framed as a poster.

This document contains a description of five types of poems. Examples and templates of each poem type are available in **readilearn** resources.

I hope you and your students enjoy writing poems as much as I and my students always have.

**A CHRISTMAS Acrostic**

*C*hildren are ready,  
*H*oping to play.  
*R*eindeer are harnessed  
*I*n front of the sleigh.  
*S*anta calls kindly,  
*“*Take us away!  
*M*rs Claus waves,  
*A*t home she will stay.  
*S*ing out with joy,  
*“*Happy Christmas Day!  


### 1. Acrostic poem

In an acrostic poem, the topic word is written vertically with each letter of the word on its own line.

A word or phrase beginning with the letter describing something about the poem’s topic, in this case Christmas, is written on each line.

Depending on the poet’s ability, the poem could be as simple as a list of words; or could build powerful images to create a vivid picture.

Other Christmas topics for acrostic poems include:

- Santa
- Reindeer
- Rudolph
- Mrs Claus
- Elves
- Presents

Other **readilearn** resources to look for: *2 Christmas acrostic poems, A Christmas acrostic poem template, An acrostic poem about Santa Claus template*

## 2. Christmas sounds

This poem has a simple structure relating a place, sounds heard and a feeling.

Line 1: I heard

Line 2: As I (e.g. sat on the beach, lay in my bed, looked at the sky)

Lines 3-5: The (*sound- an 'ing' word*) of (*sound maker*)

(e.g. the squawking of gulls, the slapping of waves)

A different sound on each line.

Line 6: I felt (*a feeling*)



Other **readilearn** resources to look for: *I heard as I lay in my bed, I heard as I sat on the beach, I heard as I template*

## 3. Haiku

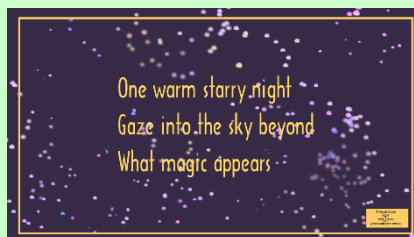
Haiku is a short poem of only three lines but writing one is not as easy as it looks.

The Haiku has a very structured form, with only 17 syllables in the entire poem:

*five on the first line*  
*seven syllables come next*  
*and five on the third*

It is traditional for Haiku to be written about the seasons and for them to include a feeling about the seasons. Sometimes the feeling is not explicit but is left for the readers to interpret.

Christmas is a perfect time for writing Haiku.



Other **readilearn** resources to look for: *One warm starry night, My Christmas haiku template*

#### 4. "I love" poems

The camp song "I love the mountains" has an easy structure to use as the basis for writing a poem / song of your own, especially about things you love about Christmas.

In Australia, Christmas falls during the summer holidays, so I have written one version for summer and one for winter.



Other **readilearn** resources to look for: *I love Christmas in Australia*, *I love Christmas in the north*, *I love Christmas template*

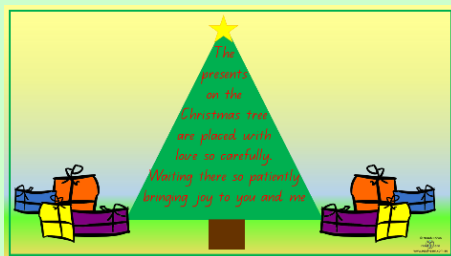
#### 5. Shape poems

A shape poem may be written around the outline of a shape, or within the outline of a shape. I have provided an example of each of these types of shape poems.

Think of one of your favourite things about Christmas. Write a sentence about it that includes a description and what you like about it.

Draw an outline of a picture of the favourite thing.

Write the words around or within the outline.



Other **readilearn** resources to look for: *The Christmas Tree*, *Tree template*, *The Star*, *The star template outline* and *The star template yellow*

*Happy teaching and learning,*

*Norah*