



FLYING!

Flitting, flying,
Falling feathers
Fluffy, floofy bits!
Feathers floating
All together!

I'm sitting, sighing
Wondering whether
I could fly in fits!
I'm noting
I've no feathers
But a you beaut
Parachute!

by J.R.Poulter, 2019

“FLYING!” Teacher Notes and Activities by J.R.Poulter, 2019

This poem has a rhyme scheme in which the five lines in verse one have the same rhyme scheme as the first five lines in the second verse. The last two lines in verse two rhyme.

Some of the lines in this poem are in iambic pentameter. Shakespeare wrote his sonnets in iambic pentameter.

<https://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/sonnets/iambic-parameter/>

Activity: Write a two line rhyming poem. See if you can give each line five strong beats and five weaker beats, in other words, iambic pentameter.

Poems can be inspired in lots of ways -
by something we see,
by something we hear,
by something we smell,
by something we taste,
by something we feel.

This poem's first verse and most of the second verse were inspired by *seeing* two birds having a bit of a fight mid air. Feathers flew in the fight, fluttering down to the ground around me.

In verse two, the word 'fits' rhymes with 'bits' (in verse one) but it also reminded the poet of a description her pilot father gave her of a first time pilot taking off on his 'maiden flight' and flying in 'fits and starts.' By 'fits and starts' her father meant a very bumpy, jumpy first attempt at take off and flight! The poet imagined that would be what her first attempt at flight would be like if she had 'wings.'

The last two lines were inspired by the *sound* of the rhyming words 'beaut' and 'parachute,' and the poet's imagining her first 'flight' might be a much better experience if she floated down by parachute!

Discussion: Try to describe what inspired your two line poem.

Activity: Which of the five senses most helped you shape the idea behind your poem?