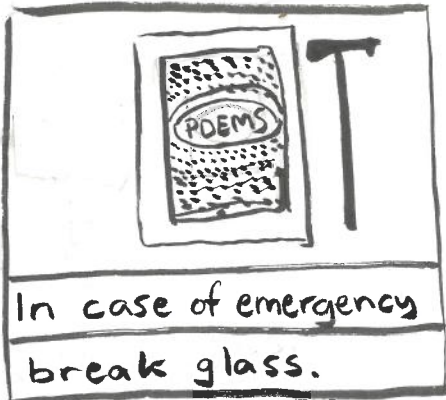


Dear student,

you are reading this because you are about to write a poem. I am writing this because I have read and written quite a few poems in my life and I want to help and encourage you.

Despite what people say, poems are very useful. They won't walk your dog but they can help you feel closer to other people and they can bring comfort. One of my favourite poems was written 700 years ago. When I read it I feel close to the poet. Though I doubt we'll ever meet! I carry this poem in my wallet and read it from time to time.



Writing poems lets me see things in new ways. It helps me look closely and notice the little things. Sometimes I connect a real thing or place to something beyond every day life. Having said that poems don't have to be deep and meaningful. Some of my favourite poems are funny, or they tell an interesting story in a clever way.

Poems are made of words, rhythm and pauses. Poems are best SAID not READ in your HEAD. So always read your poems aloud to see if they sound right.



I am sending you a poetry warm-up sheet. It will help you write a poem about a single object. You might not use the notes you make but making them will allow you to THINK, NOTICE and IMAGINE and doing those things will make your poem come out better.



Lastly, poets don't usually lay perfect poems. They often start out kind of scrambled, so let yourself cross out, rewrite and rearrange your words because this is the work of the poet.

Good luck,
Heber