

Who are you? Poem

Here is a template you can use for adding poetry to your nature journal page.

Comparing something new to something known can help you with remembering it and makes it more fun. We will use analogies to describe a nature subject and then put them together into a simple poem!

- 1.) Choose something in nature that draws your attention
- 2.) Open your book to two facing pages. Start by putting down metadata.
- 3.) Start observing in detail. You can write down what you notice and wonder.
- 4.) You can look closely with a hand lens, or step back to see a wider view.
- 5.) Now, come up with as many **analogies** as you can. See if you can make a list of 10 analogies. Analogy is a comparison between two things. Examples:
 - a. Busy as a bee
 - b. Light as a feather
 - c. Sweet as sugar
 - d. Fleece was white as snow

It could be a “it reminds me of” : “flower reminds me of a trumpet”

“Petals were like velvet”, or

“wagon wheel” or the “smell of baked bread” or “Grandma’s garden”

You make an analogy, comparison or simile when you one thing looks like or reminds you of another.

- 6.) Here’s a challenge- Keep writing the whole time- When you stretch your brain for just one more you may surprise yourself with a really neat analogy.
- 7.) On the facing page, you’ll weave some of your analogies into a poem using the following template as a guide. Feel free to modify if inspired.
- 8.) And write your completed poem on the page.
- 9.) Remember- there is no right answer and no grade. Whatever you have today is perfect!! The more you practice the easier it gets and quicker you’ll become!

Who are you? Poem Format

Object's real name:

[one analogy]

[Another analogy]

Secretly you are *[analogy]*

An ant thinks you like *[analogy]*

When I saw you in a dream,

I thought you were *[analogy]*

But everyone knows you are really

[analogy]

because

Here is an example:

1. Hawaii
2. Starfish
3. The tropics
4. Hula
5. Beauty
6. Insect
7. Silk
8. Mom
9. Jelly fish
10. Hats

White and pink flower,
Starfish,
Secretly you are silk
Because of the way your
petals look.
To an ant you are
a hat
But everyone knows you
are
what is called
beauty

This exercise is adapted from *Opening the world through nature journaling: Integrating art, science, and language arts*, second edition, John Muir Laws. It is a free PDF download available: <https://johnmuirlaws.com/product/nature-journaling-curriculum-2-0/>