

Academic Vocabulary Poems

I. Riddle Poems

A riddle poem is a riddle, a verbal puzzle to solve. A riddle poem is written in verse with short lines and uses figurative language, sensory detail, connotation and rhyme. A fun variation of the riddle poem is the riddle rap; this is meant to be performed (rapped, recorded and videotaped).

Online Examples of Riddle Poem Examples and Resources:

1. Read Write Think Lesson that gives an example of how to write a riddle poem.
<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/riddle/index.html>
2. Writing Riddle Poems with Examples
<http://www.poetry4kids.com/blog/news/writing-riddles/>
3. Anglo-Saxon Prosody
<http://www.public.asu.edu/~aarios/formsofverse/furtherreading/page3.html>
Riddle Poem Brainteasers
<http://www.squiglyplayhouse.com/BrainTeasers/PoemRiddles.html>
4. *Rigor is Not a Four-Letter Word* by Barbara Blackburn gives examples of how to use poetry with academic vocabulary.
<http://www.squiglyplayhouse.com/BrainTeasers/PoemRiddles.html>

Example Academic Vocabulary Riddle Poem

Prices go up.
Your wallet is thinner.
You pay twice as much
to provide family dinner.
What Am I?

Inflation

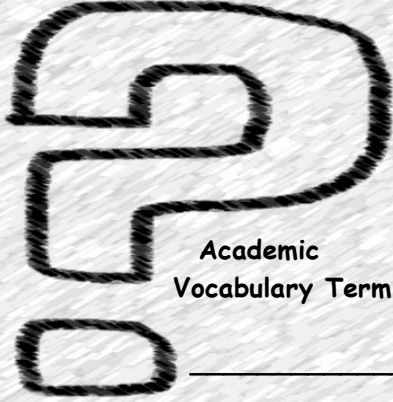
Riddle Poem Organizer

What is a Riddle Poem? *A riddle poem is a riddle, a verbal puzzle to solve. A riddle poem is written in verse with short lines and uses figurative language, sensory detail, connotation and rhyme. A fun variation of the riddle poem is the riddle rap; this is meant to be performed (rapped, recorded and videotaped).*

Steps to Creating a Riddle Poem with Academic Vocabulary

1. Write the academic vocabulary term (the answer to your poem) in the center of the graphic organizer below.
2. For prewriting, think about your term in new ways as you fill out this graphic organizer.
3. Use the best ideas from below to draft your poem.
4. At the end of the poem you may write, "What Am I?" or some other riddle type question on a small flap.
5. Underneath the flap write your academic vocabulary term (it should NOT be written anywhere else).
6. See if another student can solve your riddle. This is a great way to peer edit and find out if your poem is too difficult or too easy.

Examples/Applications:	Brainstorm: Make a list of words associated with the academic vocabulary term (you can also add synonyms for words using dictionary/thesaurus):
Comparisons/Contrasts: Show what the term is like (and perhaps what it is not like) using similes and metaphors:	Become the Term: What do you think, do, like etc.? What do you see, smell, taste, and hear? Use figurative language. Try to think like the term.



Academic Vocabulary Term: _____

II. Academic Vocabulary Two Voice Poem

A two voice poem may be used to compare and contrast two terms. This works well with terms that can be logically compared AND contrasted. Some pairs that would work well in 6th grade language arts are the following: first person/third person, protagonist/antagonist, vague pronoun/pronoun shift, connotation/denotation, flat character/round character, dynamic character, static character, restrictive element/non-restrictive element, argument/informative, conflict/resolution, metaphor/simile.

Example:

Metals

I live on the left side of the periodic table.

I am an electron giver.

I am shiny.

You can stretch me until I am thin.

I have a definite shape and volume.

I adorn your fingers.

I become positive when I bond

Nonmetals

I live on the right side.

I am an electron taker.

I am dull.

I don't even bend.

I take the shape of all of them.

I help you breathe.

I become negative when I bond.

Online Resource

http://www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Comparison_Contrast/Poem_Two_Voices.pdf

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson391/two-voice.pdf

http://www.sarasuemartin.com/uploads/1/1/3/7/11370670/a_poem_in_two_voices_defined_tutorial_final.pdf

Academic Vocabulary Two Voice Poem Graphic Organizer for

_____ & _____

says this alone	Both say this	says this alone
I am		I am
	We are	

Ideas for Alone statements: I have, I like, I live, I appear, I ask, I am like, you find, you know, you see

Ideas for Both statements: We like, we are, we both, our purpose

Model Graphic Organizer (still needs poetic development)

Academic Vocabulary Two Voice Poem Graphic Organizer for

Restrictive Element & Non-Restrictive Element

says this alone	Both say this	says this alone
	We interrupt the sentence.	
I interrupt to give you information that is important and essential to understand the sentence.		I give details but the sentence would still make sense without me. I am not essential to the meaning of the sentence.
If you take me out of the sentence, the meaning of the sentence is messed up.		If you take me out of the sentence, you'll just lose out on some details.
	We are structures that appear within sentences to give more meaning to a person, place, thing, or idea.	
I give essential information needed for a reader's understanding.		I give extra information for the reader to add more information.
My aliases are essential clause and restrictive appositive.		My aliases are non-essential element, parenthetical element, and non-restrictive appositive.
I am NOT set off by punctuation because you need to read me.		I can be set off by commas, parenthesis or dashes because you do NOT need to read me.
I begin with wh- words or that.		I sometimes begin with which but sometimes not.
	We are elements added to a sentence to give more information about a noun or a pronoun.	

Model Graphic Organizer (still needs poetic development)

Academic Vocabulary Two Voice Poem Graphic Organizer for		
Informational	&	Argument
says this alone	Both say this	says this alone
	We are types of prose writing.	
I could tell my audience all about something that matters to me.		I could be a letter to my mom asking for an iPhone.
	We have our own purpose for being.	
Mine is to inform or explain.		My purpose is to argue, convince, or persuade.
	We use facts and details and examples.	
My facts are given to explain and inform.		My facts are given as evidence to support my claim.
	We both have introductions, bodies, and conclusions.	
I could be a manual or an article.		I could be a debate or an editorial.
	We both focus on a topic.	
I give information about a topic.		I give my opinion/point of view about a topic or issue.