

Portraits & Poetry

Student study guide

A reading, writing and reflection companion. Use it before, during and after the game.



Six portraits. Six techniques. Your own words.

Original portraits by Sakura. The game pairs each portrait with a fictional writing prompt. The artwork is an invitation to imagine, not evidence of a person's identity, culture or private feelings.

Wonder · Gratitude · Joy · Courage · Disgust · Hope

Welcome, poetry curator

Your task is to build a six-portrait poetry exhibition. In each workshop, discover a technique, experiment with an image or sound, then explain one choice. You do not need to tell a true story about yourself. Imagined scenes are welcome.

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A good workshop habit

Read the short explanation before answering the challenge. A first attempt is useful even when it needs revision. Read the feedback, use a hint if you want one, and try again. In your poem, aim for a choice you can explain rather than a secret perfect answer.

Respect the portrait

Different viewers can imagine different stories. Use the chapter's fictional prompt; do not guess someone's heritage, character or experiences from their appearance.

Make, listen, keep

How each workshop works

- Choose a portrait from the chapter list. The suggested order starts with Wonder.
- Read the technique explanation and answer the short recognition challenge. You can use hints and retry without a penalty.
- Click a word tile, or type a phrase and select Use words. Dragging is optional.
- Edit the final line. In Hope, use Enter to try different line breaks.
- Read aloud yourself or use Read aloud. Compare the rhythm and meaning.
- Explain one word choice in the reflection box. Write at least eight characters, but make your explanation useful.
- Select Add poem to exhibition. Repeat for the remaining portraits.

Keeping your work

The regular game saves drafts and exhibition poems in the same browser when storage is available. In an embedded edu.games player, progress may last only until the page closes. Read the saving message. Download a progress backup before leaving and restore that JSON file in the same game later. A poem text download keeps your writing, but is not a progress backup.

Listening and access

Original example poems have recorded narration. Your edits use an available device voice, whose quality and availability can vary. You can change voice or speed, stop playback, or read silently. Use Tab to reach controls and Enter or Space to activate buttons. Ask for a partner or adult to help with reading or typing if useful.

Before a shared-device session

Agree where your backup will be saved. Avoid personal details in poems or reflections if someone else will use the browser. Ask before clearing another player's work.

Wonder

Metaphor

“A small question can open a very big world.”

A metaphor describes one thing as another, without using “like” or “as”.

“Curiosity is a doorway” invites us to imagine discovery.



Your situation

What could curiosity become in your poem?

Before you play

- What might curiosity open, guide or grow?
- How do the images of a doorway and an ocean create different expectations?

Try it in the studio

After the recognition challenge, compare two suggested phrases before choosing. Read the explanation beneath each selection. Write your own phrase if you want, then change the final line so the poem feels connected. Notice how one small change can alter the whole mood.

After you play

- Explain what your metaphor suggests about curiosity.
- Replace the image with something smaller or larger. What new meaning appears?

Words to keep

Metaphor: A direct description of one thing as another. Image: Words that help a reader imagine a picture or experience.

My experiment, useful phrase or next revision:

Gratitude

Personification

“I keep the small kindnesses close.”

Personification gives human actions to something that is not human. A feeling can whisper, dance or offer a hand in a poem.



Your situation

Choose a human action for gratitude.

Before you play

- If a feeling could move or speak, what would it do?
- What small act of kindness could inspire an imaginary poem? You may invent it.

Try it in the studio

After the recognition challenge, compare two suggested phrases before choosing. Read the explanation beneath each selection. Write your own phrase if you want, then change the final line so the poem feels connected. Notice how one small change can alter the whole mood.

After you play

- What personality does your human action give gratitude?
- Would a quieter or more energetic action suit your purpose better?

Words to keep

Personification: Giving a human action or quality to something nonhuman. Tone: The attitude suggested by a writer's language.

My experiment, useful phrase or next revision:

Joy

Simile

“I feel happiest when I share a little joy.”

A simile compares two things using “like” or “as”. An unexpected comparison can help a reader feel what you mean.



Your situation

Choose an image for joy. What kind of happiness will your poem hold?

Before you play

- What can a comparison reveal that a plain statement cannot?
- Which kind of joy would you like to convey: quiet comfort, shared warmth or sudden excitement?

Try it in the studio

After the recognition challenge, compare two suggested phrases before choosing. Read the explanation beneath each selection. Write your own phrase if you want, then change the final line so the poem feels connected. Notice how one small change can alter the whole mood.

After you play

- Explain how your chosen image changes the kind of joy in the poem.
- Try a different comparison. What changes in the mood?

Words to keep

Simile: An explicit comparison using like or as. Mood: The atmosphere a piece of writing creates.

My experiment, useful phrase or next revision:

Courage

Alliteration

“I can feel unsure and still take one step.”

Alliteration repeats an initial consonant sound in nearby words: “small, steady steps”. Listen to the sounds, not just the letters.

Your situation

Choose a phrase whose opening sounds repeat. Then read it aloud.

Before you play

- Say two words beginning with the same consonant sound.
- Could a repeated sound make a line feel gentle, firm or energetic?

Try it in the studio

After the recognition challenge, compare two suggested phrases before choosing. Read the explanation beneath each selection. Write your own phrase if you want, then change the final line so the poem feels connected. Listen carefully: matching letters alone do not prove matching sounds.

After you play

- Read your phrase aloud. Which opening sounds can you hear repeating?
- Where does the sound pattern stop? Does that help your line?

Words to keep

Alliteration: Repetition of initial consonant sounds in nearby words. Sound pattern: A deliberate repetition or arrangement of sounds.

My experiment, useful phrase or next revision:

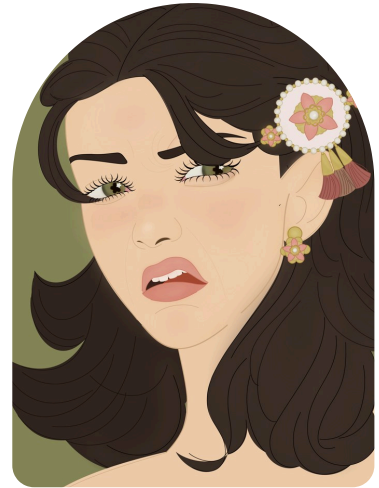


Disgust

Sensory imagery

“Some moments make me wrinkle my nose.”

Sensory imagery uses details of smell, taste, touch, sight or sound. A precise detail helps a reader enter the scene.



Your situation

Describe an imaginary forgotten lunchbox. Which sense will you use?

Before you play

- Which senses help you describe a fictional lunchbox without opening it?
- What precise sound or texture word could replace “bad”?

Try it in the studio

After the recognition challenge, compare two suggested phrases before choosing. Read the explanation beneath each selection. Write your own phrase if you want, then change the final line so the poem feels connected. Notice how one small change can alter the whole mood.

After you play

- Which sense does your strongest detail appeal to?
- Could you make the image vivid with a different sense instead?

Words to keep

Sensory imagery: Language that appeals to sight, hearing, smell, taste or touch. Precision: Choosing a particular detail rather than a vague description.

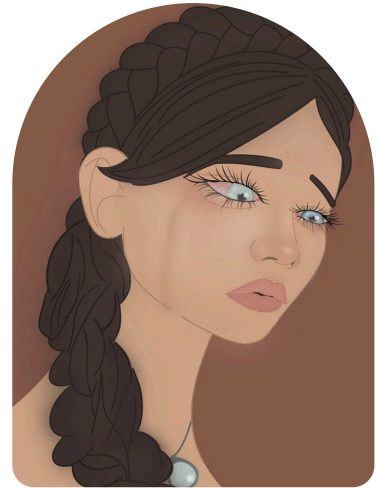
My experiment, useful phrase or next revision:

Hope

Free verse

“There is still a little light ahead.”

Free verse does not need a fixed rhyme or beat. Line breaks create pauses and give words space. Try reading the same words with different pauses.



Your situation

Choose an opening image. Write a final line, using Enter to experiment with pauses.

Before you play

- Where would you pause in a sentence about tomorrow?
- How could a short line make one word stand out?

Try it in the studio

After the recognition challenge, compare two suggested phrases before choosing. Read the explanation beneath each selection. Write your own phrase if you want, then change the final line so the poem feels connected. Keep the words the same once and move only the line breaks to hear their effect.

After you play

- Read your final line two ways, changing only the breaks.
- Which pause or emphasised word best supports your intended meaning?

Words to keep

Free verse: Poetry without a required fixed rhyme scheme or metre. Line break: The place one line ends and the next begins.

My experiment, useful phrase or next revision:

Curate, compare, revise

When all six portraits have exhibition poems, open the finished exhibition. You can preview it earlier too. Read the poems as a collection. A completed collection records your participation; your explanations and revisions show how you are thinking.

A curator's final pass

- Choose two poems with different techniques. Explain how each creates an image or feeling.
- Find a word that is general. Replace it with something more specific and reread the line.
- Check whether your final line adds something rather than simply repeating the opening.
- Revisit any workshop, make a change and update its exhibition poem.
- Print the poetry booklet, or use your browser's print dialogue to save it as a PDF.

Share kindly

Ask before reading someone's poem aloud. Give feedback about the words: "The repeated sound makes the steps feel steady" is more useful than guessing what the writer must feel. You may keep a poem private or use an invented situation.

My curator's note

Which poem changed most during revision? Name one exact change and explain its effect.

A next challenge

Write a fresh poem outside the game using two techniques together. Underline each technique in a different colour, then explain why you used it.

Words for talking about poems

Term	Meaning
Simile	An explicit comparison using like or as.
Metaphor	A direct description of one thing as another.
Personification	Giving a human action or quality to something nonhuman.
Alliteration	Repetition of initial consonant sounds in nearby words.
Sensory imagery	Language that appeals to sight, hearing, smell, taste or touch.
Free verse	Poetry without a required fixed rhyme scheme or metre.
Reflection	An explanation of a choice and its effect, supported by an example.
Revision	Changing writing deliberately to develop meaning, sound or clarity.

My next step as a poet

A technique I can now explain is... A choice I would revise is... A question I want to explore next is...

There is more than one good poem

A recognition question can have a specific answer. Creative choices can lead to many effective poems. Support your choice with the words you used and the effect you intended.