June 2003

Dolphin Word Play

OBJECTIVE

The student will experiment with language and word play as he or she creates poems about dolphins.

ACTION

1. Distribute the *Dolphin Word Play* funsheet, word reference books, and pencils to students.
2. Review the poems and word play styles by having students read aloud each example. Discuss the different structures of these poems so that students understand how to create them.
3. Invite students to write their own examples of these poems. Students may work in student groups or individually. Read new poems aloud to the class. Students may use their poems to design pages on the computer or incorporate art design. Display finished pages in the classroom.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These are a few common types of poems.

Tongue twister: repeat the initial sound of the first word in a funny or nonsensical sentence. Also called alliteration.

Limerick: lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme; lines 3 and 4 rhyme.

Cinquain: line 1 has one 2-syllable word; line 2 has 4 syllables that describe the word in line 1; line 3 has 6 syllables that show action; line 4 has 8 syllables that express a feeling or thought about the subject; line 5 has 2 syllables that describe or rename the subject.

Acrostic: choose a word (such as dolphin), and print its letters vertically. Then use each letter as the beginning or end of another word that describes the initial word or phrase. An entire acrostic can be one sentence or a series of phrases or sentences about its vertical subject.

Name _____

Dolphin Word Play

Dolphins love to play. But since you can't go for a dip with dolphins in your classroom, try your hand at word play instead. Create your own word plays in the spaces below, using the examples as models.

Teasing Tongue Twisters
Do you dare a deep-diving dolphin to do a dorsal dance?

Cetacean Cinquains
Dolphins
Graceful, agile
Swimming, splashing, diving
Carefree acrobats, leaping high
Playful

Leaping Limericks
There was a young dolphin from the Pacific
Whose leaps through the air were terrific!
She once jumped so high
She bumped the blue sky—
The splash when she landed was magnific!

Clever Acrostics
D olphins
O nly
L ike
P reying on
H erring
I n
N et-free waters

Teasing Tongue Twisters

Cetacean Cinquains

Leaping Limericks

Clever Acrostics

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