

SCOTS HOOSE WRITING TIPS

WRITING A SCOTS POEM

Writing Scots Poetry

Writing a poem in Scots is like writing a poem in any other language. You need to make some big decisions before you start.

- Will it rhyme or not?
- Do you want to write a wee short poem like a haiku or a limerick?
- Do you want your poem to tell a big long story like in ballad?
- Or do you want to write powerful challenging sonnet?

You'll find lots of examples of different kinds of poems at the Scottish Poetry Library website -

<http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/tags/suitable-children>

And then there's the really big question...what are you going to write about?

People have written Scots poems about...

....a rose, a moose, a favourite food, a summer's afternoon, Nessie, toothache, love, war, trains, the first day at school, the school jannie, the solar system, scoring a goal and getting a pet dug...

...in other words, you can write a poem in Scots about anything!

A tip for a good poem in Scots is to write about something that doesn't last...like a snawman, a holiday, a fight or argument, a birthday cake, a great day with pals that seemed it was never going to end but of course it did.

When you write about things that don't last, you are capturing a moment in time. A lot of great poems do exactly that. It's like taking a photograph with words.

The Snawman by JK Annand

We soopit and we shovelled
And made a man o snaw
Wi chuckie stanes for buttons

And een and neb and aw.

We gied him Geordie's gravat
And Grandpa's auld lum hat,
We even borrowed Faither's pipe -
Did he no girn at that!

And ilka ane that saw him
Declared that he looked braw.
But och! the thowe cam ower quick
And meltit him awa.

Rhyme

If you're going to use rhyme, you've must learn how to find good rhymes.

If you want to find a rhyme for a Scots word like **crow**, for example, don't just take the first two or three rhymes you think of.

Go carefully through the alphabet - A, B, C, D, etc - and get as many as you can for each letter. A - aw, awa; B - baw, blaw, brow;
C - caw, claw; D - daw, draw.

(It's fine to rhyme a Scots word with English words or words from other languages or countries - as long as the rhyme is a good rhyme.)

For practice, go through the alphabet to find rhymes for these Scots words -

licht
oot
wee
greetin
doon

How many rhymes did you find? Have a keek at the bottom of these pages at **Rhymes for Scots Words** to see how well you did.

Reading more Scots poems will help you write your own. Here are a few fantastic Scots poems to inspire you.

Breakin Rainbows by Janet Paisley

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/k/kistscotslanguage/texts/breakinrainbows/index.asp>

The Ballad of Janitor Mackay by Margaret Green

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/k/kistscotslanguag e/texts/balladofjanitormackay/index.asp>

North East Nineties Rap by Sheena Blackhall

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/k/kistscotslanguag e/texts/northeastninetiesrap/index.asp>

And you'll find lots more great poems in Scots on the Scots Hoose READ pages.

RHYMES FOR SCOTS WORDS

licht
oot
wee
greetin
doon

licht -

awricht, alicht
bricht
dicht, delicht
fricht, flicht
hicht
knicht
micht
nicht
Picht, plicht
richt
sicht, slicht
ticht
upricht, upticht
wicht

oot -

about

boot, brute

clout, cute

doot

foot

hoot

galoot

loot

moot, mute

put

root

stoot, spoot, sprout, snoot, soot

troot, toot

wioot

wee -

bumbee, bree

River Cree

dee, dree, Dundee

ee

flea, free

gie

hie

key

lee, Langlee

me

pree

slee, swee

tree, thee

ye

greetin -

beatin, bleatin

cheatin

eatin

fleetin

heatin

Buster Keaton

meetin

sweetin, sleetin, Port Seaton

tweetin

weetin

doon -

aroon

broon, balloon

croon

droon

afternoon

foon

goun

June

loun

poun

roon

soun

stoon

toun

woun