



King Oswald's Raven

Creating with Words 1: Writing in Rhyme



WRITE A CHARACTER PORTRAIT IN RHYMING COUPLETS

When you watched the film *King Oswald's Raven* you might have noticed that all the story is spoken in rhyme. It was written in rhyming couplets, which means that the lines come in pairs that rhyme with each other like this:

This is the first line, it is line one,
And line two gets the rhyming done...

YOU WILL NEED

Something to write with either by hand (pen and paper) or on a tablet, computer or phone. You could use a voice recorder if that works best for you.

This activity will take around 15-20 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a character from the story - The Raven, The Princess or King Oswald.
2. Think carefully about them. How do they appear in your imagination? What do they look and sound like? How do they behave?
3. Time yourself for 1 minute. Write down as many words as you can that describe the character. Write down everything that comes into your mind. These are your notes- they don't have to be neat or tidy, just as long as you can read and understand them.
4. Using the ideas from your notes, write 6-8 lines of rhyming couplets (so that's 3 or 4 pairs of lines) which tell us about the character you have chosen.

This activity sheet was made by Hazel Gould as part of the Being Human Festival, the UK's only national festival of the humanities. For further information please see beinghumanfestival.org and oswaldusrex.co.uk/animation



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Creating with Words 2: Writing a Letter



There are two letters in *King Oswald's Raven*. One is from King Oswald to the Princess, and the other is from the Princess to King Oswald. We want you to have a go at writing one or both of these letters.

YOU WILL NEED:

Something to write with either by hand (pen and paper) or on a tablet, computer or phone. You could use a voice recorder if that worked best for you.

This activity will take as long as you like. You could jot something down quite quickly - or you could really take your time. It's up to you!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Think about the two letters. The first is from Oswald to the Princess. He has never met her before, but is sure he wants to marry her. He knows there has been much competition for her hand in marriage - how does he impress her? How does he present himself? Is the letter to her, or to her father? The second is from the Princess to Oswald, and in it she tells him her plan for escape and her new life away from her father's castle. How does she describe her life now? How does she plan to get away? What does she hope for in the future?
2. Choose one letter and think carefully about it. Take a few moments to imagine what your chosen character might write in the letter.
3. Think about what kind of language you can use to express the feelings of the character. Does Oswald use flowery, descriptive language to make himself sound romantic? Does the Princess use blunt, direct language to show that she is serious about her plan? Or something else...
4. For this exercise you will be writing in the **FIRST PERSON** - which means writing from the point of view of your character, so you will be using the pronouns I, me, we & us. I like this perspective because it gives us the chance to imagine something through somebody else's eyes. Have a go at writing one, or both, of the letters. Remember to include a greeting and a sign off.

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Creating with Words 3: What Happens Next?



WRITE THE ENDING...

King Oswald's Raven ends with the King and the Raven setting off on a journey. In a way - this story ends at the beginning of another one. We want to hear what you think happens next...

YOU WILL NEED:

Something to write with either by hand (pen and paper) or on a tablet, computer or phone. You could use a voice recorder if that works best for you.

This activity will take as long as you like. You could jot something down quite quickly - or you could really take your time. It's up to you!

INSTRUCTIONS:

This exercise is all about letting your imagination run wild. Anything could happen to Oswald and his Raven, and to the Princess in the castle. We know already that we are in a world with talking birds, mermaids who give people dinner at the bottom of the sea and fish who deliver letters, so you can really be creative.

Do Oswald and the Raven make it back to the Princess or is their journey diverted by a dramatic event? Who do they meet along the way? If they get to the island, are they welcomed with open arms or is there a battle?

What is the Princess' plan for escape? Does her plan work? Does she marry Oswald and live in his castle, or does she leave her island and set off on a great adventure? What is her dream for her life and can she make it a reality?

Be bold in this exercise! We would love to hear wild and dramatic tales for the next chapter of Oswald, the Princess and the Raven.

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