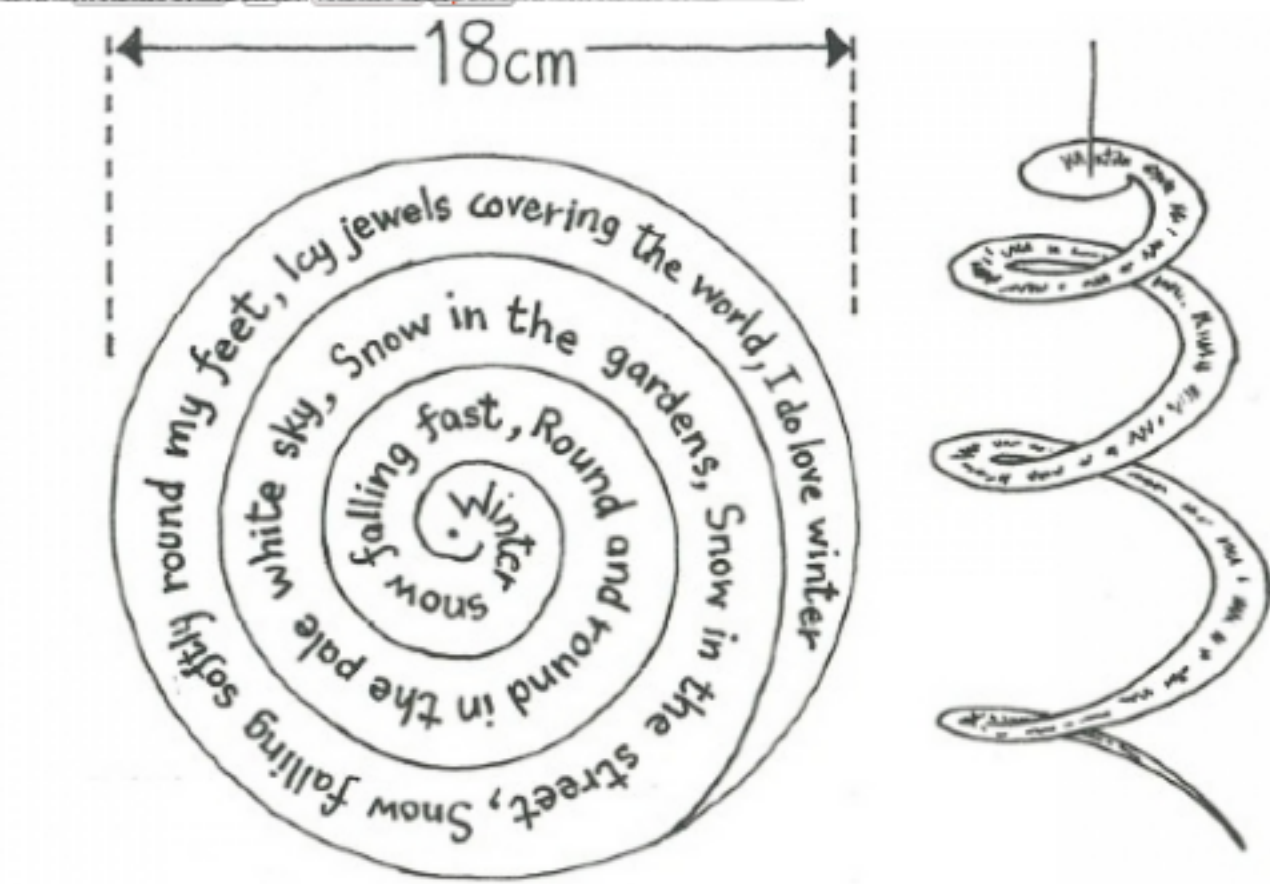


Crafty Ideas: Spiral Poems

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A template for creating spiral poems



Help children to explore patterns and rhythm in language by creating spiral poems. There are several themes that lend themselves particularly well to this work, such as snow, fireworks (Catherine wheels), snakes and sunflowers.

You will need:

- White cardboard
- Scissors
- Decoration materials e.g. glitter and sequins
- Ribbons
- Branches or hangers for the poems

Use

This flexible activity can be used as part of any theme, or as a stand-alone piece of work. It can be completed in a single lesson.

Make

- Introduce the concept of a spiral poem to the children and show them an example that you've made. Here's one (also illustrated in the line drawing above) that you might want to use. It's called *I Love Winter*.

Winter snow falling fast,
Round and round in the pale white sky.
Snow in the gardens,
Snow in the street,
Snow falling softly around my feet.
Icy jewels covering the world.
I do love winter.

You could ask children why they think this works well as a spiral poem, and see if they can make the connection between the image of snow falling in circular motion, the repetition in the poem and its spiral form.

Another example is *The Sunflower* by Catherine Benson:

Round and round, round and round
I see the pattern go.
How many seeds are there?
And how can I reach to know?

The sunflower bends her heavy head,
I stand up on tiptoe.
My finger strokes her freckled face
As I follow the spiral's flow.

But oh! There are so many,
And my counting is so slow.

- Set the theme for the poems that the children are going to write and together, think of the kind of words that they might like to use. You may want to include words about circle shapes and movement here.
- Ask pupils to write their poems first on paper. Encourage them to draft and revise their work until they have a version that they are happy with.
- Draw a spiral on white card of approx. 18cm in diameter. A simple spiral with only a few circles is best, to enable easy reading of the poem.
- Ask children to copy their finished poem onto the spiral, starting at the centre and working towards the outer edge.
- Once the poems have been transcribed, cut the spirals out carefully. The children can add decorations at this point if they wish with sequins, colour or glitter.

Display

To display the poems, make a hole in the centre of each one, and thread a ribbon through it. Use some branches supported in a bucket of sand to tie your poems to. Display in a corner of the classroom where the children can read the poems as the spirals twist and turn.

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