

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 4, Lesson 15

Teacher Packet

Poem Brainstorming

Elements	Co-Create	My Own
Topic		
Stanzas		
Repetition		
Rhythm		
Similes		
Imagery		
Theme		

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

The Sun does arise,
And make happy the skies.
The merry bells ring,
To welcome the Spring,
The sky-lark and thrush,
The birds of the bush,
Sing louder around,
To the bells cheerful sound,
While our sports shall be seen
On the Echoing Green.

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

Old John with white hair
Does laugh away care,
Sitting under the oak,
Among the old folk.
They laugh at our play,
And soon they all say,
Such, such were the joys,
When we all, girls & boys,
In our youth time were seen,
On the Echoing Green.

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake

Till the little ones weary
No more can be merry
The sun does descend,
And our sports have an end:
Round the laps of their mothers,
Many sisters and brothers,
Like birds in their nest,
Are ready for rest:
And sport no more seen,
On the darkening Green.

Guided Practice

“The Lonely Playground”

Another school day begins;
Kids return from where they've been.
Into the school door they glide,
Leaving the one lonely slide
Waiting for joy to descend
Into the sandpit at the end.
Limp swing chains patiently wait.
Silence envelopes the gate,
Seeing children to abound
On the Lonely Playground.

Guided Practice

“The Lonely Playground”

Like bees to a hive,
To the slide kids dive.
At noon, skip and jump,
Dow slides Zac, bump!
On the swing, chains are taut;
Wobbly feet on beams are hot.
Sweet sounds of laughter,
For here ever after,
Enjoying the sound
On the Happy Playground.

Guided Practice

“The Lonely Playground”

The shrill bell sounds at three.
How oddly lonesome to be
Where children once played.
Now, the still quiet is laid.
Swings put to rest in the shade.
In the west the sun slowing sets.
No visitors the place gets,
Awaiting the next day's rising gold mound,
Above the Lonely Playground.

Independent Practice

Write your own stanza three to our poem, “The Lonely Playground.”

Use William Blake’s poem as a model for your stanza and the brainstorming chart. Be sure to:

- Include repetitions from stanzas one and two
- Show how time is moving to evening
- Give details about the sounds of the playground
- Use more imagery
- Connect to the theme of a cycles are part of life
- Check your lines for 6-8 syllables

Creative Assignment: Write your own poem about another topic in the style of William Blake.