

Name:

Date:

Read the following poem carefully. It is a traditional poem written by the Yoruba tribe who are an ethnic group from different parts of West Africa.

Leopard

Gentle hunter
his tail plays on the ground
while he crushes the skull.

Beautiful death
who puts on a spotted robe
when he goes to his victim.

Playful killer
whose loving embrace
splits the antelope's heart.



Read the poem carefully and find an example of each of the following literacy devices:

1. an oxymoron

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2. personification

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3. connotation

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4. How do you think the Yoruba tribe feels about leopards? Why do you think this?

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5. Did you enjoy this poem? Why? Why not?

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.....

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Use the poem generator game to write your own poem. You can play this game alone, in pairs, small groups or whole class. Start by filling in each box with six examples of each word class. Then roll a dice to choose words from each box and explore the combinations to create a poem.

<p style="text-align: center;">Adjectives</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nouns</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Verbs</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Adverbs</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5.</p> <p>6.</p>

Use your word lists to write a poem below – remember you can edit and change your ideas.

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Teacher's notes

Use the PPT to explore what children know about leopards already and share the fact file. Does anything surprise them? What have they learnt?

Go on to read the traditional Yoruba tribe poem and discuss the following literacy devices. Use a whiteboard pen to highlight and annotate examples on the IWB.

- **Oxymoron:** This is when one word contradicts another. For example: bitter sweet, pretty ugly, pain for pleasure, act naturally. Here are examples found in the poem: gentle hunter, beautiful death, playful killer. Identify how each of the verses extends and elaborates on each oxymoron.
- **Personification:** This is when a writer gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, nature or phenomena. Identify how verse two contains personification in that the leopard is wearing the robe like a human would.
- **Connotation:** When we read a word we might associate it with certain things that we've seen or experienced before. We think beyond its denoted meaning (the dictionary meaning) and think of something else. It might even provoke a strong emotion or feeling in us.

Highlight line two of verse two: 'who puts on a spotted robe'. Who would wear a robe? Who would wear a spotted robe? Look at the images of royalty on PPT slide 4 and discuss.

After reading activities:

- Split the class into groups who work together to perform poem. It can be a simple reading, learning the poem by heart or even a dramatized portrayal. Use props, sound effects, dance, lighting, costumes or music. Encourage children to work as a group and decide who will do what, making sure everyone is comfortable with their role.
- Write your own poem about an animal. Use some of the literary techniques you have learnt about.
- Find another poem that uses one or more of the literary tools you have learnt about. Write an analysis of the poem and bring it to class to discuss.
- Learn more about leopards kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/leopard/.
- Read more Yoruba poems www.africanpoems.net/tag/yoruba/.
- Play the poem generator game. This is a game you can play alone, in pairs, small groups or whole class. The game helps explore the literary devices and it is fun playing around with words. Fill in each category with a word as indicated. Roll a dice and explore the combinations as a base for a poem. Here is an example of how it could work to generate ideas and form a base for a poem:

Adjectives 1. loud 2. rude 3. spoilt 4. hungry 5. revengeful 6. wizened	Nouns 1. fisherman 2. turtle 3. tablecloth 4. aunt 5. crocodile 6. baby
Verbs 1. crush 2. kill 3. breathe 4. fix 5. cradle 6. whisper	Adverbs 1. slowly 2. carefully 3. madly 4. loudly 5. greedily 6. awkwardly

Sentence examples:

Model to the children how to generate sentences which can then be adapted to create a poem

The hungry crocodile crushed its prey slowly.
The wizened turtle breathed carefully.
The spoilt fisherman cradled his catch carefully.
The rude aunt breathed loudly.

An example poem:

The loud tablecloth kills loudly
Mealtime
The cold dining room
Loud silence
Chink chinking of the knives and forks
Distance between us
Across the crisp white tablecloth
Your silence pierces my ears
Kills my love sharply.

A sophisticated example of a poem which brings to mind a large old-fashioned dining room, complete with butlers. There is an echo in the room from the knives and forks, but nobody is talking. There is an icy silence. It conjures up the idea that silence can sometimes be loud.