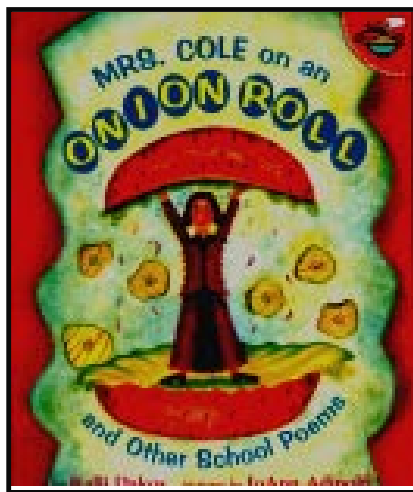


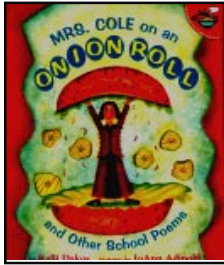
Mrs. Cole on an Onion Roll

Lesson Plans and Comments

By Kalli Dakos



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Mrs. Cole on an Onion Roll and Other School Poems

Comments by Kalli Dakos

Mrs. Cole on an Onion Roll

- why would a teacher end up on an onion roll?
- have children chant each line after you
- point out the rhyming couplets - two lines in a row that rhyme
- as the teacher reads the poem, have children chant in on the rhyming words
- this poem is set up like a poetic play - students can be given parts to read or recite
- imaginative poem* -- the student is thinking up all kinds of crazy things to eat

Mrs. Wren Lost Her Glasses Again

- read this poem to your students and see if you can trick them with the ending
- this poem uses repetition to give it a nice beat
- the teacher could read the poem and the children could chime in with "Oh! Oh!"
- the illustration is imaginative

Frog-a-lert

- the sounds of words are important in poetry
- "frog-a-lert" is fun to say -- the students can repeat these lines while the teacher reads the rest of the poem
- students might want to make up their own words -- *teacher-a-lert*, *mouse-a-lert*, *George-a-lert*

Love Note

- the shape of the poem is interesting because it is set up like two notes that are going back and forth between Eric and Ashley
- this is a *love poem*
- the loooooooooooooong words are meant to be read with a lot of expression

The Wiggles Beat the Woggles

- this poem is fun to read
- let students echo each line or chant along with the teacher
- alliteration - repeating the same letter or sound in a succession of words -the "W" sound in this case
- also the repetition of the "g" sound in many of the words
- poetic license - making up words like "woggle" -- what does a "woggle" look like?
- let children get out of their desks and wiggle and woggle through this poem

Pop! Pop! The Chicken Pops!

- as you read this poem, pop stickers on your face, arms, etc.
- have children chant "Pop, Pop, The chicken pops"
- poetic license -- many young children say "chicken pops" instead of "chicken pox", and the author has used this idea in the poem
- repetition and rhyme gives the poem a nice beat

Peter the Pain

- notice the size of the print -- each stanza is larger than the one before -- the student is getting angrier and angrier
- as you read each stanza, let your voice get louder
- in each quatrain (four-line stanza), the second and fourth lines rhyme

Second Grade Worms

- have students get out of their desks, and wiggle and jiggle through this poem
- poems come in different shapes
- the shapes help you to enjoy and understand the poem
- internal rhyme - words like "wiggle" and "squiggle" in line 2 and "jiggle" and "twiggle" in line four

My Teacher

- this poem is in *free verse*
- a free verse poem does not follow a specific form and it does not have to rhyme
- the line breaks are put in where they sound best, usually at natural pauses in speech

There's a Bug on the Teacher

- have a toy bug crawl up the teacher as you read this poem
- if possible, each student in the classroom could have their own toy bug
- repetition -- the repetition in this poem makes it easy to read, and gives it a nice beat
- rhyme scheme - in each stanza, lines two, three and four rhyme

One Step Back

- students should stand up and take the steps forwards and backwards as this poem is read
- this poem is set up on the page to make it feel as if steps are being taken
- the second and fourth lines of each stanza rhyme, and the same rhyme (ack) continues through the entire poem
- this poem is fun to read and act out by taking the steps

Would You Like a Hamburger or a Cheeseburger?

- this poem is set up like a mini-play
- one person can play the teacher's role and another person can play Fred's role
- a cheeseburger without cheese IS a hamburger -- this poem plays with words

Looooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooong Names

- children love to say the loooooooooooooooooooooooooong words
- the shape of the words fit the context
- having fun with language
- free verse poem
- the *sound* of words is important in poetry, and "Rolyoly Ravioli" is fun to say

Five Seconds Left in the Game

- cheer leading pom poms bring this poem to life
- let groups of children act out the cheers
- poetic shape - the shape makes you feel like you are right in the game -- the countdown of the seconds, the scores, and the cheers
- the cheers are in *rhyme* to set them off from the storytelling part of the poem which is in *free verse*
- this is a *sports poem*

In Trouble

- ask students if they have ever been in trouble in school
- they might want to write an "*In Trouble*" poem
- this poem is in free verse
- repetition -- the words do not repeat perfectly, but they are close enough so that they give the poem a nice rhythm

My Favorite Pencil

- we can write poems about *everything* -- even the pencils on our desks
- poetic shape - the shape fits the pencil that is being described
- have students look carefully at their pencils -- they just might find a poem

An Itty-bitty Speck of a Dot

- quatrain with lines two and four rhyming
- where do erasers go when their lives are over?

Turn on the Darkness

- poetic shape - letters getting smaller and smaller and fading out
- fun to read orally with children - students can pretend to fall asleep and then wake up suddenly
- part of this poem is in free verse and the other part is in rhyme

The Day Before I Wear the Birthday Crown All Day in School

- some poems are very, very short, and yet their titles can be long
- the title of this poem is *longer* than the poem itself

Hip Hip Hooray!

- students love to chant in with "Hip Hip Hooray!"
- it is fun to wave streamers as you cheer
- poem of celebration
- lots of repetition
- quatrains with lines two and four rhyming

Muddy Recess

- this poem is fun to recite
- lots of "s" sounds
- poem of celebration
- students have fun acting out this poem

The Bumbling Day

- rhyming couplets
- students might want to write their own "Bumbling Day" Poems
- poetic shape - how words are placed on the page

Tall Saul

- the size of the letters fits the words they are describing
- have one group say "Tall Saul" in a deep voice, and another group say "Pee Wee Lee" in a tiny voice
- all words are very important in poetry - take off the last three words, and the poem loses its power

Elemenapee

- poetic license - making up words

- having fun with language
- some poems *ask questions*

Knit 1, Purl 2

- the poet uses the long, thin shape (just one word on each line) so that you get the feeling of the scarf that is being knit
- the illustrator put the picture over the two pages because the child doesn't know how to stop and the scarf just keeps going and going
- this poem uses rhyme to give it a nice beat

This Day is Going to be Very Looooooooooooooooong!

- this poem expresses a child's feelings
- poetic shape - loooooooooooooooooooooooooong
- quatrain - lines two and four rhyming

Four Against One

- this poem asks a question as many poems do
- students might want to give their opinions and then write their own poem that asks a question

Yahoooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

- pretend you are the student, and jump on a desk when you read this poem
- the children love to chime in on "YAHOOOOOOOOOOOOOO" and "TOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO"
- fun with language

I Lost My Tooth in My Doughnut

- repetition and rhyme give the poem a nice rhythm
- every second line rhymes
- Dear Tooth Fairy/Dear Bob -- quatrains - lines two and four rhyme
- students might want to write their own *tooth poems*

My Project's in the Toilet

- a disaster poem
- bring in a toilet plunger to add spice to this poem
- poetic shape - gives you the feeling of "plunging"

There's Something in My Book Bag and It Bit Me

- put a snake or a bug in a book bag and read this poem with a great deal of shock and expression
- did your students ever bring something to school in their book bags that was scary?

- repetition
- imaginative poem
- asks a question

You're an Author Now

- poem of celebration
- lots of repetition and rhyme
- have one person sing the teacher's part and another the student's part
- try singing this in outrageous opera - give each student a chance to sing