

Poetry Unit
Lesson 3

Alliteration

Alliteration is a literary device that is much easier to understand when hearing a poem. It is the conscious decision to repeat a sound or a letter in close syllables. In the sentence below, taken from a Mother Goose poem, the sound B is repeated throughout. Alliteration, simply, makes poems sound nice!

Betty Botter
bought some
butter,
“But,” she
said, “the
butter’s bitter;
If I put it in my
batter,
It will make
my batter
bitter;

In some more serious poems, simple sounds can mirror what the poet is describing. For example, the sound S can sometimes sound like whistling wind.

Activity 1: Find the alliteration

In the poem *Fox in Socks*, find 10 different examples of alliteration. When you’re done, watch the linked video to hear what alliteration sounds like in action!

Poem:

<https://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/drees/Fox-In-Socks.txt>

Video: [Fox in Socks](#)

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Activity 2: Writing with alliterations

For each letter below, find 5 words that start with the highlighted letter, or sound. For example, *quay* could go with *cape*, as they both start with the /k/ sound! For an added challenge, try to find words that are related or could have a similar theme (love, laugh, lament, etc.).

Letter	Word 1	Word 2	Word 3	Word 4
A				
B				
D				
P				
R				
T				
Y				
W				

