

## **Title:** Snow Poem

**Objective:** Conduct a sensory walk and create a list of descriptive words about snow to be used to write poems

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

**Materials Needed:** Journal, pencil, large notepad from an easel (for teacher)

*Optional:* Paper, clipboards, Snow Poems (found at [jeffersfoundation.org](http://jeffersfoundation.org))

### **Interdisciplinary Lesson**

**Theme: Snow**

Topic: Snow and Poetry

Suggested Grade Level: K-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Outdoors

## **Directions:**

1. Get dressed for outdoor learning in winter. Lead the class in a single file outdoors onto a sidewalk.
2. Once outdoors, share with students that today they will take a quiet walk to observe snow on the schoolyard using their senses (including tasting snow if you allow it). Students should only talk when prompted by the teacher to share observations.
3. Begin your walk by moving from the sidewalk into the snow listening to the sounds the snow makes as they step in it. Next, pause and ask students to feel the snow (using boots and gloves/mittens). While stopped, ask them to pick up a handful of snow and smell and/or taste the snow. Continue your walk. At your next stop focus observations on how the snow looks. After each sensory observation, ask for descriptive words to be shared verbally. The teacher should write these words on a large notepad.
4. Continue the walk (without talking) back to the sidewalk or to an outdoor classroom (an area with benches or chairs).
5. Once the group has reached the desired ending location, ask students to share additional sensory observations they made. Add the observations to the list on the notepad. Place the notepad where all students can see it.
6. Distribute journals, or paper/clipboards, and pencils. Ask students to create a Snow Poem. They may use descriptive words from their own observations and/or observations shared by classmates. Challenge them to include observations from several senses.
7. Read poems aloud. *Optional:* Ask students to close their eyes while classmates read their poems and envision the experience shared in the poem.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Which observations about snow were surprising to you? Which senses were used to make those observations?
2. If we went on a “Snow Walk” while it was snowing, how might our observations be different? (Intrigued... Try it!)

## **Science and Engineering Practices:**

8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

## **Crosscutting Concepts:**

1. Patterns; 2. Cause and effect: mechanism and explanation.

## **Disciplinary Core Ideas:**

Earth and Space Sciences: ESS 2: Earth's systems.

## **Background Information:**

- Possible adjectives children may use to describe snow: squeaky, crunchy, wet, cold, white, fresh, crumbly, silent, odorless, etc.

## **Variations:**

- If it is too cold to read the poems aloud outside, return inside to read the poems OR go back out on another day to conduct a poetry reading.
- Depending on student ability or age/grade, ask students to write three words to describe their experience with snow during the walk instead of writing a structured poem.
- Use the poems in the “Additional Resources” section before or after the activity to share the work of Poets and to provide additional inspiration for creating poems about nature, including poems about snow.

## **Additional Resources:** *(Additional poems can be found online as a supporting document at [jeffersfoundation.org](http://jeffersfoundation.org))*

- *When All the World is Full of Snow* by N.M. Bodecker (poem)
- *Snow* by Karla Kuskin (poem)
- *First Snow* by Marie Louise (poem)
- *It Fell in the City* by Eve Merriam (poem)

## **Correlates with:**

Greeting - Snowfall Greeting (p. 32)

Activity - How Much Water is in the Snow? (p. 49)

## Snow Poems

### Snowflakes

Feathery, feathery snowflakes  
Floating from the sky  
Feathery, feathery snowflakes  
Fluttering, fluttering by.

Silvery, silvery snowflakes  
Sparkling in the sun  
Silvery, silvery snowflakes  
Silently they have come.

-Author Unknown

### Snow

Snow is on the housetop,  
Snow is on the ground.  
Snow is on the mountain,  
Snow is all around.

-Author Unknown

### Winter

See the snowflakes, feathery and white,  
They fall on the housetops all through the night.  
They cover the bushes wherever they fall,  
Making each bush like a round popcorn ball.

-Author Unknown

### Sky Bears

Oh, it snowed last night, snowed last night  
The sky bears had a pillow fight  
They tore up every cloud in sight  
And tossed down all the feathers white  
Oh, it snowed last night, snowed last night.

-Author Unknown