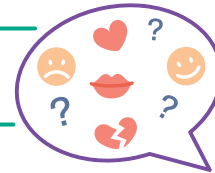




How to...



How to write an ode



Holly King-Mand

Holly King-Mand is a writer, presenter and campaigner for literacy (the ability to read and write) who has inspired thousands of

children to be creative. Holly loves writing and had her first poem published at the age of 14. Here, she shows you how to write your very own adoring ode.

An ode is a type of poem that praises, glorifies or adores an event, person, place or thing. Odes are thoughtful and show that you have explored your feelings. An ode can be serious or fun – but it must be about something you really think is wonderful.

Odes date back to ancient Greek times and were often accompanied by chants, music or singing. In fact, the word “ode” comes from a Greek word meaning to sing or chant. Why not put pen to paper and write about your favourite things for Valentine’s Day?



An ode is a fun way to express your feelings.



Who or what do you adore?

Picking the object of your ode is simple. What makes you happy? What makes you smile, even on a bad day? You could write about your mum, your dog or your best friend. Or perhaps chocolate or a cheesy pizza. It could even be your favourite singer, a character from a book or video game or a beloved toy. Whatever you decide to write about, make sure you’ve got lots of wonderful things to say.

List their good qualities

Odes reflect on the person or thing’s different qualities. Start with a brainstorm of what is wonderful about your chosen subject. Is your best friend amazing because they are patient and kind; or because they tell funny jokes and are brilliant at Minecraft? What is it about your dad’s roast dinners that make them the best? Your title will be: “An ode to...” and whatever you’ve chosen.



Decide form and structure

You can write your ode in any style, but if you want to keep it traditional it should be written in the first person (I think, I adore, etc.) and across three sections. Try to express your thoughts and feelings creatively and don’t forget to praise. You could use similes, which is when you describe something by comparing it to something else with the words “like” or “as”. For example, “Your fur is as fluffy as a cloud”.

Be dramatic

Use hyperbole (language that exaggerates for effect). You can declare your rabbit is the most clever creature in the world – it doesn’t matter if it’s not true! Use superlative forms, which means adding “-iest” or “-est” on the end of describing words, such as “brightest” or “tastiest”. For example, “You’re the kindest, funniest and silliest mum.” Then share your ode by writing it in a card or reading it aloud.



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