

Writing Rhyming Couplets on the Theme of Being Ill in Bed



1. Brainstorm all the good words or phrases you can think of to do with being stuck in bed when you are ill. Record these on a big bit of paper – *bed, sick, TV, toys, ache, water-bottle, pillow, Mum*, etc.
2. Put a ring around 3, 5 or 7 of your very favourite words – your teacher will tell you how many you should start with.
3. Record the first of your chosen words in the top right hand box of the first pair of ‘couplet lines’ – *bed*. Do the same with your other favourite words, again using the top right-hand boxes of each set of ‘couplet lines’.
4. Find a really good rhyme for each of your chosen words. Use a rhyming dictionary and remember to check the spelling! For *bed*, you could try *head, said, Ted*, etc.
5. Have fun drafting the two lines that finish with your rhyming words: *Here I am, stuck in bed/ With a runny nose and a painful head. OR, Mum has told me, ‘Stay in bed!’/ At least I’ll get to be with Ted.*
6. Keep saying your lines out loud so that you can hear what they sound like. Remember, the lines need to be roughly the same length and if possible should both be about the same thing, situation or thought.
7. Keep re-reading your lines and making any changes you need to so that they have the right rhyme and rhythm.
8. Write your poem out in best, being sure to use your clearest joined-up handwriting and taking care to spell all your words correctly.
9. Practise reading your poem aloud. Try out different ways of reading the lines, changing your voice to match the mood of the poem and thinking about which words you should emphasise as you speak.
10. Give your poem a good title!

Adapted from an idea by Holly McNish.

Unit 1 Days 3 and 4