

Copy Change Poem

"Imitation, conscious imitation, is one of the great methods, perhaps the method of learning to write. The ancients, the Elizabethans, knew this, profited by it, and were not disturbed. As a son of Ben [Jonson], Herrick more than once rewrote Jonson, who, in turn, drew heavily on the classics. And so on."

—Theodore Roethke, "How to Write Like Somebody Else".

In a copy change poem you borrow another writer's structure and use it as the base for your own work. You may find that the new poem takes on a life of its own, and becomes a very different work than the original. In partners (or alone), make a copy-change poem based on the following:



You are the
Sugar to my Coffee
Rainbow in my Sky
Twinkle of my Star
Bow on my Present
Hero of my Story
Waves to my Ocean
Laces to my Sneakers
Apple of my Eye
Frosting on my Cupcake
Bounce in my Step
Wind in my Sails
Calm of my Storm
Cream cheese on my Bagel
Key to my Heart
Love of my Life

- Anonymous

Think about the intended audience (parent, sibling, friend) and adjust the wording accordingly. Be creative and have fun with it!

We will be putting these up around the classroom as a source of inspiration to others, so please pay attention to the presentation (appearance, tidiness) of your poem. Don't forget to give it a title!

	1 – Poor	2 – Fair	3 – Good	4 - Excellent
Pattern & Structure	Does not model poem's pattern or structure. Many variations, alterations, omissions, or additions.	Lacks correct modeling of poem's pattern and structure. Poem has some variations, alterations, omissions, or additions to author's structure.	Mostly models poem's pattern and structure without too many variations, alterations, omissions, or additions.	Accurately and completely models poem's pattern and structure without variation and additions.
Originality	Student used almost the entire poem as written	Student changed very little about the poem	Student used mostly own ideas but still included some of the words from the original poem	Student branched out and used the original poem simply as a guide
Creativity	Student did not change any of the ideas	They did not branch out at all to think outside of the box	Student used some creative ideas but still stayed very close to the original poem.	Student thought outside of the box and really ran with his/her imagination.
Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation	Full of mistakes	Much of the poem is spelled correctly but there were still considerable mistakes.	A few mistakes	Minimal mistakes
Presentation	Done in pencil; resembles a draft	Lacks colour or tidy presentation	Tidy and colourful	Tidy, colourful, and includes illustrations

Total: /20