

Poetry at the Craggs

A Poem For My Pet!

Welcome to Poetry at the Craggs! This week's poetry exercise is all about pets! Don't worry if you haven't got a pet – make one up! You could pick any animal, even one that isn't usually a pet.

Christopher Smart was an English poet from the 1700's. One of his famous poems was about his cat, called Jeoffry. Here is are some of the lines from the poem:

My Cat Jeoffrey
Christopher Smart



Creswell Craggs used to be home to mammoths, hyenas, woolly rhinoceros, and wolves – you could choose one of those to be your imaginary pet!

For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.
 For first he looks upon his fore-paws to see if they are clean.
 For secondly he kicks up behind to clear away there.
 For thirdly he works it upon stretch with the fore-paws extended.
 For fourthly he sharpens his paws by wood.
 For fifthly he washes himself.
 For Eightly he rubs himself against a post.
 For Ninthly he looks up for his instructions.
 For Tenthly he goes in quest of food.
 For he is of the tribe of Tiger.
 For he will not do destruction, if he is well-fed, neither will he spit without provocation.
 For he is the quickest to his mark of any creature.
 For he is a mixture of gravity and waggery.
 For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
 For he can catch the cork and toss it again.
 For, tho he cannot fly, he is an excellent clamberer.
 For he can creep.

The poet is making a list of all the things that Jeoffry does – how he moves, how he behaves – in order to capture a complete portrait of what his cat is like.

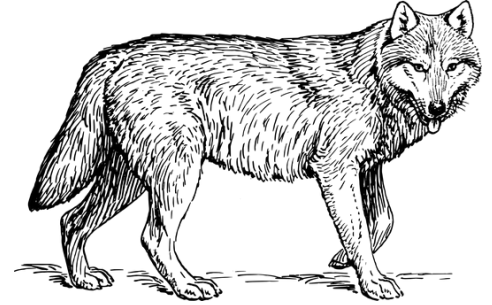
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Now it's your turn to have a go!

Step One: Pick a pet! This can be your real pet, or a pet you imagine having.



Step Two: Write a list of all the things that your pet does. Think about how they move, what they look like. Think about whether they are well behaved or naughty. Give examples! Where do they like to sleep? Do they like to play? What do they feel like, or sound like?

Step Three: Write out your poem. Start with this line:

For I will consider my type of animal, your pet's name
For he/she...

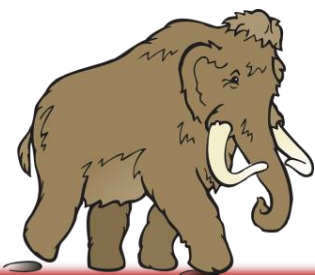
Here is an example:

For I will consider my *raven, Poe.*
For he *likes to tap upon my door*



Step Three: Add a drawing of your pet, if you want!

To get some ideas, watch your pet closely and write down what you see them doing. If you're writing about an imaginary pet or animal, ask your parent or guardian to help you find some pictures or videos.



When you're finished, why not ask your parent or guardian if you can show us your finished poem on Twitter – remember to tag us @CreswellCraggs, and use the hashtag #creswellpoetry!