

The New York Public Library

At Home Activities for Families

Five Senses Neighborhood Poems

Overview

You will work with your child to help them write a poem that describes their neighborhood using the five senses.

Ages

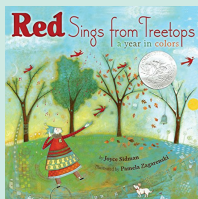
Appropriate for children ages 5-8

Materials Needed for One Child

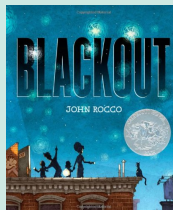
- Pencil
- Paper
- Colored pencils / markers (optional)
- Piece of blank paper or My Neighborhood Poem Template (pg. 5; printable; optional)

Paired Books for Virtual Read Alouds

The e-books listed below can be accessed through the New York Public Library's digital collections and touch on the themes of the activity. We recommend reading them with your child before or after completing the activity.



Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors
by Joyce Sidman
Accessible on the SimplyE app and OverDrive



Blackout
By John Rocco
Accessible through the Bookflix database

At Home Activities for Families

Activity Instructions

1. Tell your child that they will be writing a poem using their five senses. Identify the five senses with your child (smell, taste, touch, sound, and sight). Ask your child what they know about poems. Help your child understand that a poem is a *piece of writing that uses special describing words in an interesting pattern*.
2. Tell your child that the poem will be about their neighborhood (or the area where they live).
3. Show your child the **My Neighborhood Poem Example** (pg. 4). Read the poem to your child. Ask your child what they thought of the poem. What did the person who wrote this poem say that she saw in her neighborhood? Tasted? Heard? Smelled? Felt?
4. Brainstorm with your child about the five senses in your neighborhood. Here are some suggestions you can give your child if they are struggling. If they like a suggestion, try to help them make it specific to their neighborhood (for example if they say “yes!” to seeing a building in their neighborhood, ask them what the building looks like and what’s in the building):
 - *See*: cars, buses, buildings/stores/restaurants, parks, animals (what kinds?), special signs/artwork/murals, people they know, trees, flowers, etc.
 - *Taste*: something their family makes at home, a favorite restaurant in the neighborhood, their favorite snack or summertime treat
 - *Hear*: the subway, birds singing, the ice-cream truck, music from car speakers

The New York Public Library

At Home Activities for Families

- *Smell:* foods from particular restaurants, trash, food trucks, someone's perfume or cologne, flowers in a garden
 - *Feel:* clothing, subway ticket, a book in their hand, the pole on the subway train, the grass at a park, Pokémon cards, a baby's hands
5. After brainstorming, work with your child to help them write their poem on a blank sheet of paper.
- **Modification:** If your child is unable to write independently, have them describe what they want to say to you and write it down for them. Write neatly and clearly and consider asking your child to trace over what you wrote. Make sure to read what you have written back to your child.
 - **Optional:** Print out the **My Neighborhood Poem Template** (pg. 5) for them to complete.
 - **Optional:** Use the **Adjective List** (pg. 6) to help your child come up with good descriptive words.
6. **Optional:** After writing the poem, have your child create an illustration of the things they wrote about in their poem.
7. Have your child read their poem to you or another family member!

The New York Public Library

At Home Activities for Families

My Neighborhood Poem Example

I see yellow daffodils in the middle of the street
and the multi-colored mural at the corner of St. Marks
I taste sweet, smooth ice-cream covered in sprinkles
while sitting on my stoop
I hear basketballs bouncing on the sidewalk,
the bus slowing down at the corner,
and my dog barking at birds in the park
I smell new grass growing, stinky garbage,
and smoky fire from a neighbor's barbecue
I feel the beat in my heart as I climb the steps that leads me to home



The New York Public Library

At Home Activities for Families

My Neighborhood Poem Template

Author: _____

I see _____

I taste _____

I hear _____

I smell _____

I feel _____



The New York Public Library

At Home Activities for Families

Adjective List

Sight	Taste	Hear	Smell	Feel / Touch
adorable	bitter	beeping	burnt	bumpy
amazing	creamy	buzzing	delicious	cold
beautiful	crispy	crashing	delightful	clumsy
blurry	delicious	drizzling	light	delicate
clean	disgusting	loud	rotten	fluffy
colorful	fresh	noisy	stinky	greasy
curly	horrible	rustling	sweet	hot
dangerous	juicy	rumbling	strong	prickly
fancy	mushy	scraping	yummy	rusty
glittery	salty	soft		scratchy
long	sour	sharp		silky
messy	spicy	thundering		slippery
round	stale	whispering		slimy
shiny	sticky			smooth
short	sweet			spooky
small	tasty			spongy
				sticky