LANGUAGE LESSON



All aspiring authors absolutely must make use of the professional poets' traditional tools. Here are some easy exercises to help you learn two such techniques: **alliteration** and **onomatopoeia** (on-eh-ma-toe-pee-ah). Aim to add these devices into your writing repertoire.

Alliteration: Repetition of the same letter (or sound) at the beginning of two or more neighboring words. For example, "Fancy Nancy <u>d</u>resses <u>d</u>ivinely for <u>e</u>very <u>e</u>vent she <u>a</u>ttends."

Underline the alliteration in the sentences below:

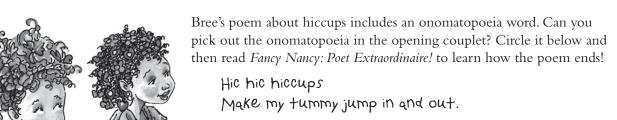
- Bree brings bunches of bright berries and gorgeous grapes for some scrumptious snacking.
- Nancy knows never to talk too much when writing rousing rhymes in the Palace of Poetry.

Finish the following sentences by adding alliterative words to each empty line:

- Fabulous friends ______.
- Beautiful butterflies _____
- Silly sounds _____

Onomatopoeia: A word or phrase that sounds like the thing or action it stands for. Examples of onomatopoeia are: buzz, pop, sizzle, zoom, hiss, click, hum, itch, knock, meow, and moo.

- ▶ Make a list of all the onomatopoeia words you can think of. Select words that sound just like the thing or action they name, such as drip drop, choo-choo, ding-dong, and beep beep.
- Write three sentences using one or more of the words from your list. Insert the onomatopoeia words for emphasis (that's fancy for importance) to enhance your meaning.
- Rewrite each sentence using a different onomatopoeia word. Then review the new sentences and see if the meaning has changed.
- Find examples of onomatopoeia in the comic strip section of the newspaper and in magazine advertisements. Seeing samples in daily life will help bring the concept home.



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