

Name: _____

Date: _____

Poem for Grandparents' Day

Due Date: _____

This the following criteria which must be met in order to achieve a solid grade for your poem. Your poem must contain the following:

- 1) Your poem must have some kind of rhyme scheme. For example: a-a-b-b-c-c; a-b-c-b; a-a-a-a, or a pattern of your own. If I do not find a pattern, then you will receive zero points.
- 2) Your poem must have at least four examples of figurative language. Your examples must be strong and have meaning. You can choose from the following forms of figurative language:
 - a) onomatopoeia: find words that virtually replicate sound and create vivid effects. Words like murmur resembles the sound of a *murmur*, and numerous other words, too--*boom*, *buzz*, *clang*, and so on. Example: "Wow! These last thirteen years have gone by so fast!"
 - b) alliteration: alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds in words and syllables. For example, "I love my **g**entle, **g**raceful, **g**enerous **g**randma."
 - c) metaphors and similes: Use both or at least just one. Remember a metaphor is a comparison between two things; however, a metaphor demonstrates that thing is the other. For example: "Juliet is the sun" is a metaphor. OR "Grandma, you are my light in the gloomy, dark night sky" is a metaphor. On the other hand, a simile is a comparison between two unlike things, ideas, or objects using **like** or **as**. For example, "Grandpa, like a strong Northeastern gale, you guide me and give me a gentle push to help me achieve my dreams" is a sentence using a simile.
 - d) personification: personification is giving human characteristics or qualities to inanimate objects or animals. For example, "Grandma, your delicious cooking makes my stomach smile" is using personification.
- 3) Poem must be **at least** ten lines long. You can break your ten lines into two stanzas of five lines or you can break your poem into four stanzas with three stanzas containing three lines and one stanza containing one line. Basically, you have creative freedom in arranging your lines and stanzas, but you must have at least ten lines to the poem.
- 4) The poem must have a title. All titles in poetry are placed in quotations and do not capitalize any articles or prepositions within the title of the poem. For example, suppose your title is "Star in the Sky" Notice that "in" and "the" are not

capitalized. Why? Because “in” is a preposition within the title, and “the” is an article within the title of the poem. Pick creative titles. Do not title your piece UNTIL you have finished your poem. After you have finished your poem, look for beautiful phrases within your poem for the title.

- 5) The poem MUST BE TYPED, but for now, we will use paper until we receive our computers. You will have to type your poem at home as we are not rolling out computers until September 8 and 9th. So, be responsible and get your work done early!
- 6) Rubric for this poem is found on line, and this poem is worth 100 points.
- 7) Use spell check and be aware of your grammar!!! Remember to capitalize Grandma or Grandpa if you could replace a name in its place; however, do not capitalize “my grandma” or “your grandpa” if there is a possessive pronoun in front of it.
- 8) Poetry can either have punctuation or be open ended, BUT pick one style and be consistent!

Read the following example of this Grandparents’ Day Poem. Underline all the figurative language in the poem. Remember, the poem with the most figurative language that are well-written will be chosen to be read at Grandparents’ Day! This is an honor, and these poems will also be published on my website.

“Like the Sun Rising in the East”

You are my grandparents, that’s what I am proud to say
Like a cool breeze in July, you brighten my day
Grandma, I know I can always talk to you
Whether it is just for fun, or when I am feeling blue
Together, my grandpa and grandma are the finest of friends
Who will love each other beyond when life on earth ends

You are my brilliant teacher, a wise owl
Teaching be how to swing a golf club or to just fold a kitchen towel
Like the sun rising in the east, Grandpa, you are always there
Both of you give me unconditional love and let me know that you care
Grandpa’s hugs are my favorite soft pillows
Both of you are my guardian angels with shining halos

Watching me constantly like a hawk when no one else is around
When I am with you Grandma, I never wear a frown
Your hugs and kisses make me warm even when it is freezing cold
Dear Grandma and Grandpa, I will love you forever until I grow old
My grandparents are the wind always guiding me where to go
They guide me by telling me sweet stories from long ago

So, how do you start to make that amazing Grandparents' Day poem?

1. Start with writing lines about your grandparent(s) that describes them, or the relationship that you have with them.
2. Some students write lines that start with the same words or do not say a whole lot.

example: My grandmother is sweet.
My grandmother is a good cook.
My grandmother is gentle.
My grandmother is helpful.

Would you really want to read a poem like that? Where is the figurative language? Every sentence starts with the same words....BLAH. BLAH. BLAH.

3. So, how do we fix this? Where do we start? Let's take a look at the line "My grandmother is sweet." How about using a simile and some alliteration? First, think about people, things, ideas, or places that are sweet: an ice cream parlor, chocolate, brownies, honey, etc. After you have made a list of sweet things, pick one. Let's use honey.

My grandmother is sweet.
My grandmother is as sweet as honey.

You know what? That simile could be EVEN stronger if we used some strong adjectives, so let's describe honey: golden, gooey, sticky, etc. Now, let's insert some adjectives:

My grandmother is sweet.
My grandmother is as sweet as honey.
My grandmother is as sweet as gooey, golden honey.

Now, we have a descriptive sentence with a simile and alliteration. Next, you might want to change the structure of the sentence as you do not want every sentences to start with "My grandmother is as"

My grandmother is sweet.
My grandmother is as sweet as honey.
My grandmother is as sweet as gooey, golden honey.
Like gooey, golden honey, my grandma is so scrumptious and sweet.

4. Let's move on the the next sentence: "My grandmother is a good cook." Think about people things, ideas, or places that have good cooks: Baker's Square, Julia Child, etc. So, the new sentence is....

My grandmother is a good cook.
Eating at my grandmother's house is as good as Bakers Square.

Instead of using another simile, try playing with a metaphor. Remember a metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things, BUT a metaphor does not use **LIKE** or **AS**:

My grandmother is a good cook.

Eating at my grandmother's house is as good as Bakers Square.

My grandmother's house is Bakers Square as every plate of food is perfection and comes with pie.

5. Now let's work on the sentence: "My grandmother is gentle." What things are gentle? Wings of a butterfly, a summer's breeze, the petals of a rose, an angel's wings, etc.

My grandmother is gentle.

Like the petals of a red rose, my grandmother's touch is as soft and fragrant.

Could I make it more descriptive? Yes...

My grandmother is gentle.

Like the petals of a red rose, my grandmother's touch is as soft and fragrant.

Like the petals of a red rose, my grandmother's touch is as soft and fragrant.

6. We are now ready to look at the last line: "My grandmother is helpful." Again, what kind of people, things, ideas, or place are helpful? Firemen, maps, a GPS, doctors, nurses, etc. Let's use a metaphor.

My grandmother is helpful.

She is my GPS as she is always coming to my rescue and guiding me to take the right path in life.

7. Now, you need some type of rhyme scheme for the poem. Go to Rhymezone.com for help if needed. You will have to play with words, cut and delete, and at times, completely change the line for the rhyme.

8. Look at the lines that we have thus far:

Like gooey, golden honey, my grandma is so scrumptious and sweet.

My grandmother's house is Bakers Square as every plate of food is perfection that comes with pie

Like the petals of a red rose, my grandmother's touch is as soft and fragrant

She is my GPS as she is always coming to my rescue and guiding me to take the right path

Looking at the line one and two, I see that line 1 ends in "sweet," and line 2 ends with "pie." I know that "treat" rhymes with "sweet," so I am going to change the line to "My grandmother's house is Bakers Square as every plate of food is perfection and comes with a treat."

9. When I look at line 3 and 4, I have a problem. There are no words that rhyme with "fragrant," so I found a synonym for "fragrant" and decide to use "sweet-smelling." So, now I am going to look up a rhyme for "smelling." After reading line 4, I am going

to end with “yielding.” “She is my GPS as she is always coming to my rescue and guiding me to take the right path in life without yielding.”

10. Remember, you may have to delete or change your sentence. Also, not every line has to rhyme. You could have an a-b-a-c pattern, so line three and four could have been left as is. It is up to you on how you arrange your rhyme pattern.
11. Now, for my wonderful eighth grade honor students, we have to write a sonnet. Follow the steps thus far. And now we start to work. You will have to look at your strong sentences and cut them into five feet of iambic pentameter (10 syllables per line).
12. Let’s look at the line “Like gooey, golden honey, my grandma is so scrumptious and sweet.” Instead, “Grandma like gold honey, thou art as sweet.” What I did was just play with the words in my head. You will have to write and count and rearrange. For some this may take time, so plan accordingly.
13. Instead of “She is my GPS as she is always guiding me to take the right path in life without yielding.” Yeah, it is great and filled with figurative language, but it is not in iambic pentameter. You will have to write and count and rearrange this sentence. This may be difficult for some of you, so plan accordingly. What I did with the previous sentence was play around with the words in my heads and I came up with this-- “Thou art my map in life always helping.”
14. “Thy house is Bakers Square e’er serving treats.” ---e’er is old English for always and is one-syllable.
15. “Like a rose, Grandma is sweet and compelling.” --I had to change things around, but the message and figurative language is still there.
16. So, here is the first quatrain:

Grandma like gold honey, thou art as sweet

Thou art my map in life always helping

Thy house is Baker Square e’er serving treats

Like a rose, thee art sweet and compelling

17. Remember to use Shakespearean language: thy = your thine = yours

Ye = you thou = you art = are e’er = ever/ always

Each line is in iambic pentameter. There are five feet of iambs per line. Each foot contains a unstressed and stressed syllable.

