

WHAT AM I? Writing Your Own Riddle Poem Lesson Plan

Introduction: Read the story, *The Red Lantern*, about a girl named Annie who spends the day helping Gung Gung, her grandfather, at his shop in Chinatown. Unwittingly, she meets the Jade Emperor's daughter who tells Annie all about the origins of the lantern festival, a celebration that is part of modern Chinese New Year. The Jade Emperor's daughter needs help solving three lantern riddles. Will Annie live up to the challenge and find the answers before the sun sets and fireworks light up the night sky? Or will the Jade Emperor's daughter be barred from going home for another year?

Solving lantern riddles is one of the most popular activities of the Lantern Festival.

Supplies: photocopies of the Riddle Worksheet, access to a thesaurus, writing utensils

OPTIONAL: white lantern tags

copy of the book "The Best Riddles in the World" by George Tam

PROJECT:

1. Share riddle examples with students:
 - a. The more you take, the more you leave behind. = footsteps
 - b. People need me, but they always give me away. What am I? = money
 - c. I go in dry and come out wet. The longer I'm in, the stronger I get. What am I? = a teabag
 - d. I love to dance and twist and prance. I shake my tail, away I sail. Wingless, I fly into the sky. What am I? = a kite
 - e. I am a warrior amongst the flowers, bearing a thrusting sword. Able and ready to use it to guard my golden horde. What am I? = a bee
2. Follow the steps on Writing Your Own Riddle Poem:
 - a. CHOOSE a concrete, general ANSWER FIRST
 - b. BRAINSTORM about your answer and create a list of words and ideas related to your answer
 - c. Choose three words from this list and look them up in a thesaurus
 - d. Look up the answer to your riddle in a thesaurus as well
 - e. Think like the answer: what does your answer see, hear, smell, like, do, et
 - f. Use FIGURE OF SPEECH:
 - i. METAPHORS = A direct comparison of two things that share a common characteristic "It is that" for example, This classroom is a zoo / He is a night owl
 - ii. SIMILE = An indirect comparison using 'like' or 'as' "It is like that" for example, Busy as a bee / Work like a dog / Easy as pie / Sing like an angel
 - iii. ONOMATOPOEIA = A word expressing a sound, for example, pop, buzz, boom
 - g. WRITE your riddle DRAFT
 - h. **OPTIONAL:** WRITE your FINAL riddle on a white tag to be hung from a lantern
 - i. SHARE with the class

Name: _____

WHAT AM I? - Writing Your Own Riddle Poem

1. CHOOSE a concrete, general ANSWER _____
2. BRAINSTORM about your answer: create a list of words and ideas related to your answer.

3. Choose three words from the above list and look them up in a thesaurus

Original Word	Synonyms

4. Look up the answer to your riddle in a thesaurus as well

Original Word	Synonyms

5. Think like the answer: what does your answer see, hear, smell, like, do etc.

6. Use figurative language:

Metaphor: A direct comparison of two things that share a common characteristic

Example: This classroom is a zoo / He is a night owl / You are my sunshine / Life is a dream

Simile: An indirect comparison using 'like' or 'as'

Example: Busy as a bee / Work like a dog / Easy as pie / Sing like an angel

Onomatopoeia: A sound word

Example: pop, buzz, boom

7. WRITE your riddle DRAFT