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**Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances**  
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**Awesome Alliteration**

**By Dorie Thurston**

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This lesson teaches the student how to write with alliteration, which means that the same letter sound is repeated at the beginning of two or more words in a sentence. The lesson also reviews adding adjectives and adverbs for a more descriptive sentence.

First, the teacher reads the book, Thank You for the Thistle, or any other book that is alliterated. Ask the class if they heard anything special about the style of writing of the story that you have just read. Explain that this is called alliteration, and authors use this method of writing to get the readers attention. Tell the class that they will now write a sentence in the same manner as a group. Put the word "cat" on the board and ask students to think of an adjective or descriptive word that tells us what kind of cat it is. The adjective has to start with the "k" sound. It can begin with a "c" or a "k." (Crazy, cool, calico, cute) Then ask them to think of a verb or action word that begins with the "k" sound. What does the cat do? (Caught, climbed, crawled) Now how did the cat do it? Think of an adverb that begins with the letter sound "k." (Carefully, carelessly, cautiously) Where did he do it or what did he catch? Continue until a nice sentence is written on the board. Pick another subject, such as "dog," and write another sentence together. Then have them write sentences on their own and share them with the class. Make sure that you explain that certain letter combinations do not make the same sound such as the "ch" sound instead of "k" sound or the "th" sound instead of the "t" sound. When children are comfortable with alliterating, tell them that they are going to write an alphabet book for the kindergarteners. Give each student a letter of the alphabet and tell them to pick an animal that begins with that letter. They will then write an alliterated sentence using that letter and draw a picture to illustrate their sentence. Each student can then read their sentence to the kindergarteners in alphabetical order like an alphabet book.

Thank You for the Thistle by Dorie Thurston can be found at <http://www.doriebooks.com>

Graduated from University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received Intermediate Honors in Sophomore year. Wrote a children's book which is highly recommended for elementary school teachers.

**Poetry Techniques**

**By Gary R. Hess**

### **Poetry Techniques by Gary R. Hess**

The style of writing poetry differs from person to person; long or short meters, three or four lines to a stanza. But the great thing is, no matter how a poem is written it still holds great emotion. Some techniques used in poetry are onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance, rhyming, simile and metaphor.

Onomatopoeia is one of the easiest to learn and use (but not spell). The definition of onomatopoeia is a word imitating a sound. For example; "buzz", "moo" and "beep". This can be used in a variety of ways giving the reader a "hands on" feel.

One technique that you might be familiar with is alliteration. This procedure is used by starting three or more words with the same sound. An example of this would be "The crazy crackling crops." The three words don't have to have the exact same beginning to have this effect.

The next style is assonance. It is defined as a repetition of vowel sounds within syllables with changing consonants. This is also used in many different circumstances. One would be "tilting at windmills." Notice the vowels within each syllable sound the same.

Rhyming is probably the most well-known technique used. However unlike popular belief, it does not need to be within a poem to make it a poem. It is what it is.. a technique.

As for similes, they are often used within poetry. They are an expression that compares one thing to another. A paradigm of this would be "The milk tasted like pickles." This method is used in all forms of poetry and generally has the words "like" or "as."

The last but not least style is metaphor. A metaphor is a word or phrase used one way to mean another. Metaphors are sometimes hard to spot and take some thinking to figure out, but they give writers more power to express their thoughts about a certain situation. One famous case where a metaphor is used is within "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe. In fact, not only is it found within the story, the story itself is a metaphor of memory and the constant reminder of the narrator's loss.

These techniques are seen throughout history within both famous and amateur poems alike. To have a full grasp of poetry onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance, rhyming, simile and metaphor should be household words.

Gary R. Hess is a writer for

The Poem of Quotes



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