

SPOKEN WORD ACTIVITY

Rhythm & Rhyme Poetry: *I am a Leader*

DIRECTIONS: Write rhythmic, rhyming poem about your character qualities, role, responsibilities, risk and rewards as a leader. Recite the poem for your family, friends, and teachers.

TIPS FOR WRITING A RHYMING POEM

- ✚ Decide on what your poem is going to be about and how long it will be.
- ✚ Think about what you want to include in the lines and write it down to remember.
- ✚ Be aware that here's where it gets trickier. For your first line, you want to either describe the setting, the character, or a hint of what your complete poem is about.
- ✚ Take your time and fumble around with words. Come up with your lines even if they don't rhyme yet.
- ✚ Start rhyming. Once you have a specific idea of what you want your first line(s) to be, find some simple words that rhyme. Switch around some of the words in that line and add in those simple rhyming words at the end. This might take a little time as it is the hardest part.
 - ✧ **Example:** Pretend that you're writing a poem about a bad day that you had. You'd start out with something like "Today was the absolute worst day ever. I think I've never had one so bad." Now, two simple words that rhyme are bad and had. Let's switch the sentences around and add in those two words. "Today was the worst day I've ever had. I think I've never had one so bad." Notice how the sentences have almost the same amount of syllables.
- ✚ Continue your poem and keep brainstorming simple rhyming words. Remember to make the lines of the poem have near-equal or totally equal lengths.

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