

Reading: a short poem about feelings

A poem can use short lines, repeated words and sound patterns. Read this original school poem and follow the speaker's feelings from the morning to the end of a performance. Separate the text's evidence from your own reaction.

Anglais 1AC - Supplementary practice - Updated 27/10/2026

Learning goals

- Find the voice saying I
- Follow the change from quiet to proud
- Explain a feeling without inventing a biography

1. How do I understand a short poem about feelings?

Identify the speaker, the situation and words that show a change in feeling. In this poem, a quiet speaker prepares to perform, receives encouragement and feels proud afterwards. Explain your answer with a line or detail rather than inventing the speaker's name or age.



Find the speaker and the situation.

2. Find the voice saying I

The speaker is the voice saying I in a poem; it need not be the real author. Words such as scared, calm and proud help you understand the speaker's state. A repeated line can connect different moments even when the feeling changes. Read the poem once for its situation and again for its changes. Notice time words such as morning and now. A poem does not need every pair of lines to rhyme. When you explain a feeling, name both the word and the event that helps you understand it.

3. Follow the change from quiet to proud

Moment	Feeling clue	Context
Morning	scared	A voice feels small before the show.
A friend's help	calm	The speaker takes a breath.
After speaking	proud	The speaker finishes and smiles.

4. Read the original school poem



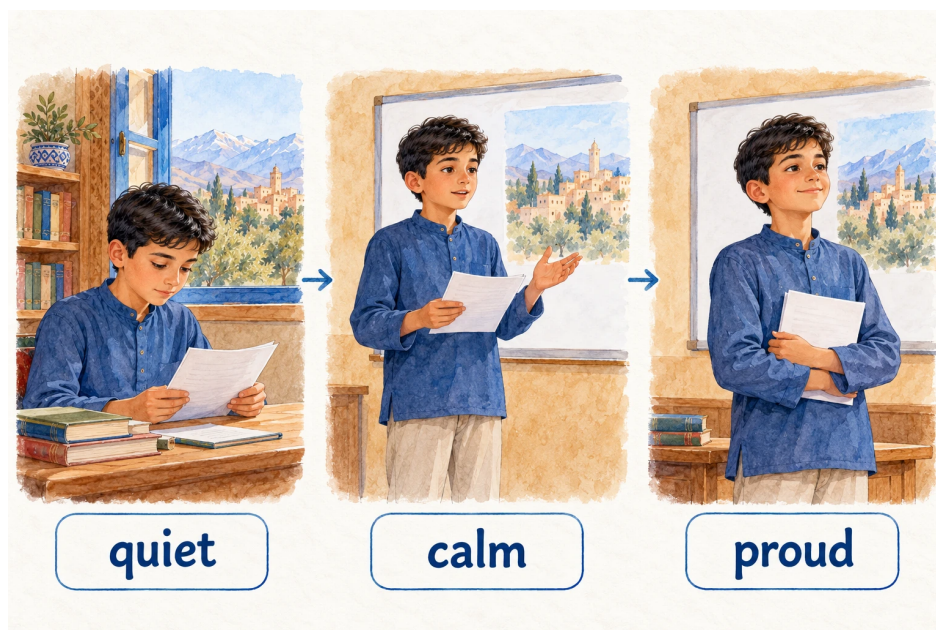
Use time and feeling words to follow a change.

Read and explain this example

In the morning, I feel small. / My voice is quiet in the hall. / A friend says, Breathe; you know your part. / A little calm comes to my heart. / I speak my words; the room is still. / Now I am proud: I found the will. / We stand together, side by side. / My smile is small; my joy is wide.

5. Explain a feeling without inventing a biography

The speaker says I feel small, but that does not mean the poem gives a measurement of their height. The phrase expresses how the speaker feels before speaking. Later, a small smile describes something visible. Read the surrounding lines to decide which meaning fits. A reader can have a personal reaction to the poem, but comprehension answers should still distinguish a stated detail from an interpretation supported by several lines.



Support an interpretation with a line from the poem.

Check this

The slashes show line breaks in this display. Small first describes how the speaker feels, then describes a smile. Do not assume the speaker's age or name: neither is given.

Put the idea into practice

1. Read the poem once without stopping at every unfamiliar word.
2. Mark a word or event from the beginning, middle and end.
3. Explain how the speaker changes and quote only the short phrase you need.

Remember

- Find the speaker and the situation.
- Use time and feeling words to follow a change.
- Support an interpretation with a line from the poem.

Practice - Try before checking

Answer in your notebook. Use evidence from the examples and check your sentences.

Exercise 1. Identify the voice

Which word shows that the speaker talks about himself?

Exercise 2. Follow the feelings

How does the speaker feel before and after speaking?

Exercise 3. Respond with evidence

Name one thing that helps the speaker and explain why.

Exercise 4. Separate evidence from assumption

Does the poem tell us the speaker's name? What evidence supports a feeling of pride?

Explained answers

Exercise 1. Identify the voice

I shows a first-person speaker. The poem also uses my for the speaker's voice, heart, smile and joy.

Exercise 2. Follow the feelings

Before speaking, the voice is quiet and the speaker feels small. Afterwards, the speaker says I am proud and describes joy.

Exercise 3. Respond with evidence

A friend encourages the speaker to breathe and remember the part. This is followed by a little calm; the sequence suggests the encouragement helps.

Exercise 4. Separate evidence from assumption

The name is not stated. Pride is explicit in Now I am proud, and the closing lines describe a smile and joy. Use those details rather than inventing a name.

Frequently asked questions

How do I understand a short poem about feelings?

Identify the speaker, the situation and words that show a change in feeling. In this poem, a quiet speaker prepares to perform, receives encouragement and feels proud afterwards. Explain your answer with a line or detail rather than inventing the speaker's name or age.

Is the speaker always the person who wrote the poem?

No. The speaker is the voice within the poem. A writer can create an invented speaker, so do not assume the poem is a personal biography.

Must every poem rhyme?

No. Poems may use rhythm, images, repetition or line breaks without a fixed rhyme pattern.



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