

**REACHING
OUT!**

MUSEUM EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
FOR NORTH HAMPSHIRE



HAMPSHIRE
CULTURAL
TRUST



Gilbert
White
OATES
COLLECTIONS

Winchester's
Military
Museums



Gilbert White

Literacy Resource Pack

KS2



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ENGLAND**

Writing Resource 1: Poetry

Teacher Notes

Being a naturalist, Gilbert loved to be outside and amongst nature. He would have used all his senses to help observe what was around him. Take on the challenge and explore styles of poetry using your senses to write a structured poem.

Writing Outcome

To write a structured poem about nature using all your senses.

Resources Required

Provided in Pack:

- Triante Poem - Resource Sheet 1a
- Diamante Poem - Resource Sheet 1b
- Poem Templates - Resource Sheet 1c

Provided by school:

- Nature walk & note taking activity

Class Activity

Set the scene:

Take the class outside to be amongst nature on a nature walk. Find example of different habitats and make notes in each location about the sorts of things you can see, smell, taste touch and hear in the natural environment.

Introduction:

Look at the examples of the structured poems- a triante and a diamante poem (resource sheets 1a, 1b).

Can the pupils identify the structure of the poem? Discuss as a class. Remind them of the word classes being used in each.

Writing Task:

Can the pupils create a poem in this style using the sense words that they recorded on their nature walk? Resource sheet 1c can be used as a template.

Writing Resource 3: Letter Writing

Teacher Notes

Gilbert loved to write letters to his friends and family describing the sights he observed in his garden. Can you embrace this traditional form of communication and write your own letters? Take on the challenge and practise your letter writing skills with some of the ideas suggested.

Writing Outcome

To write an informal letter.

Resources Required

Provided in Pack:

- Letter writing ideas- – Activity Sheet 3a

Provided by school:

- Letter examples to analyse

Class Activity

Set the Scene:

Write a brief 'letter' to the class explaining the lessons objectives and success criteria. Discuss why letters are an important form of communication. When and why would we choose to write a letter to somebody?

Introduction:

Introduce the concept of writing an informal letter by looking at a variety of examples. Analyse their layouts and language devices used.

Writing Task:

Look at the suggestions for letter writing ideas.

Which ideas appeal to you?

Plan and write your letter.

Who are you writing to and for what reason?
Adjust your language accordingly.

Writing Resource 4: Diary Entry

Teacher Notes

Gilbert was famous for recording the changes he saw in the wildlife surrounding his home in his journals. Can you follow his footsteps and write a diary entry – but with a twist? Take on the challenge of writing a diary from the point of view of his beloved pet tortoise, Timothy.

Writing Outcome

To write a diary entry from a sustained point of view.

Resources Required

Provided in Pack:

- Timothy Tortoise info - Sheet 4a
- Diary entry scenarios - Sheet 4b

Provided by school:

- Diary Entry examples

Class Activity

Introduction:

Introduce the concept of writing a diary entry and look at a variety of examples. Analyse the layout and language devices used.

Look at information on Gilbert's pet tortoise, Timothy. (Activity sheet 4a)

Writing Task:

Look at the events that happened to Timothy Tortoise (sheet 4b).

If you have time, act these out in small group drama performances.

Choose one of the scenarios and write a diary entry in role as Timothy Tortoise for that particular day.

You may wish to think of your own events that could have happened to Timothy at Gilbert White's House.

Triante Sense Poem Structure

Line 1: One word (title)

Line 2: Two words (smell)

Line 3: Three words (touch)

Line 4: Four words (sight)

Line 5: Five words (sound)

Triante Sense Poem Example

Grass

Mossy, earthy

Tickling beneath feet

Luscious green, waving gently

Scuttling mini beasts crawl within .

Diamante Poem Structure

Line 1: Beginning Topic

Line 2: Adjective, Adjective (beginning topic)

Line 3: -ing word, -ing word, -ing word (beginning topic)

Line 4: Four nouns or a short phrase (about both topics)

Line 5: -ing word, -ing word, -ing word (end topic)

Line 6: Adjective, Adjective (end topic)

Line 7: Ending Topic

Diamante Poem Example

Sky

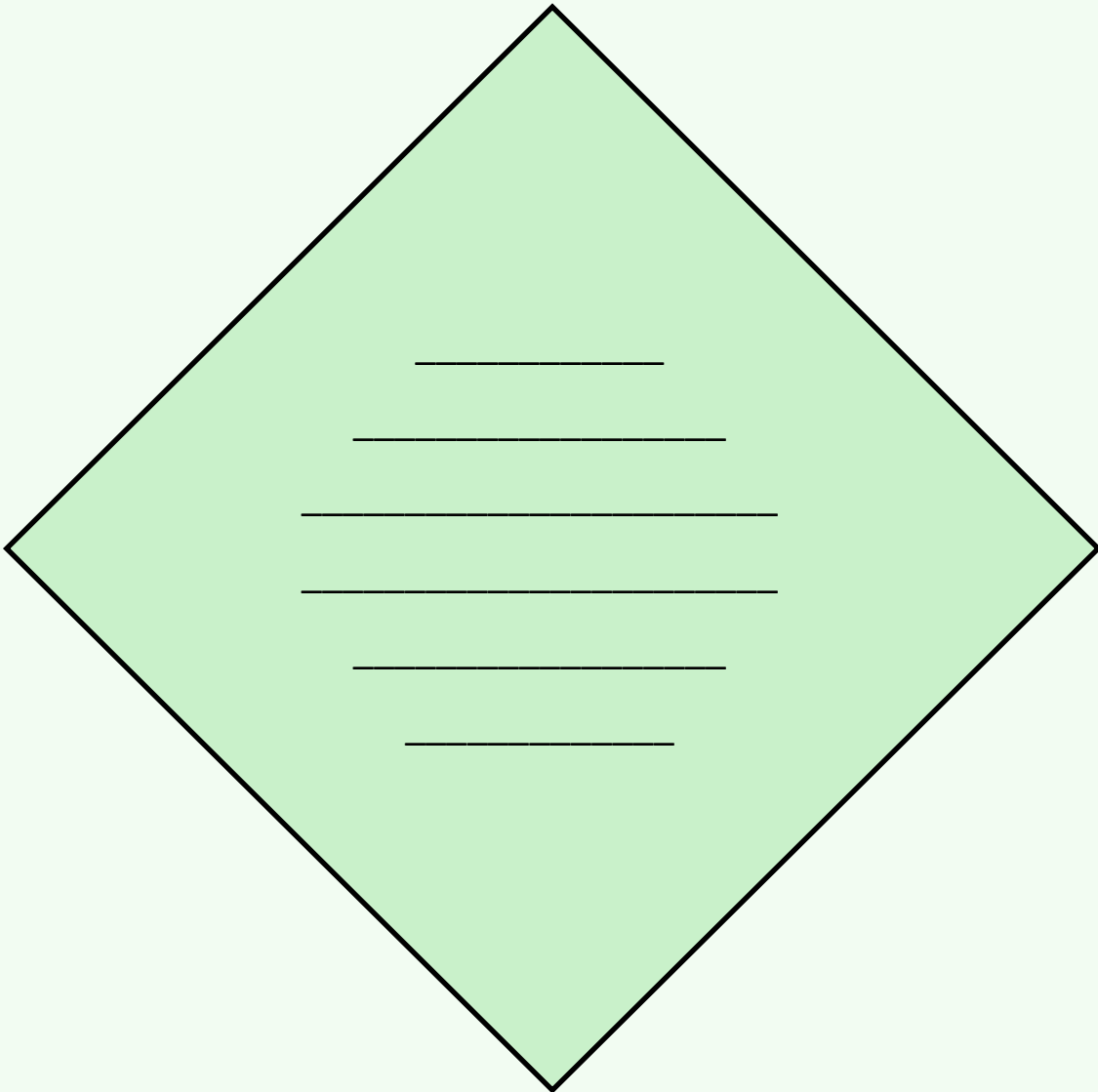
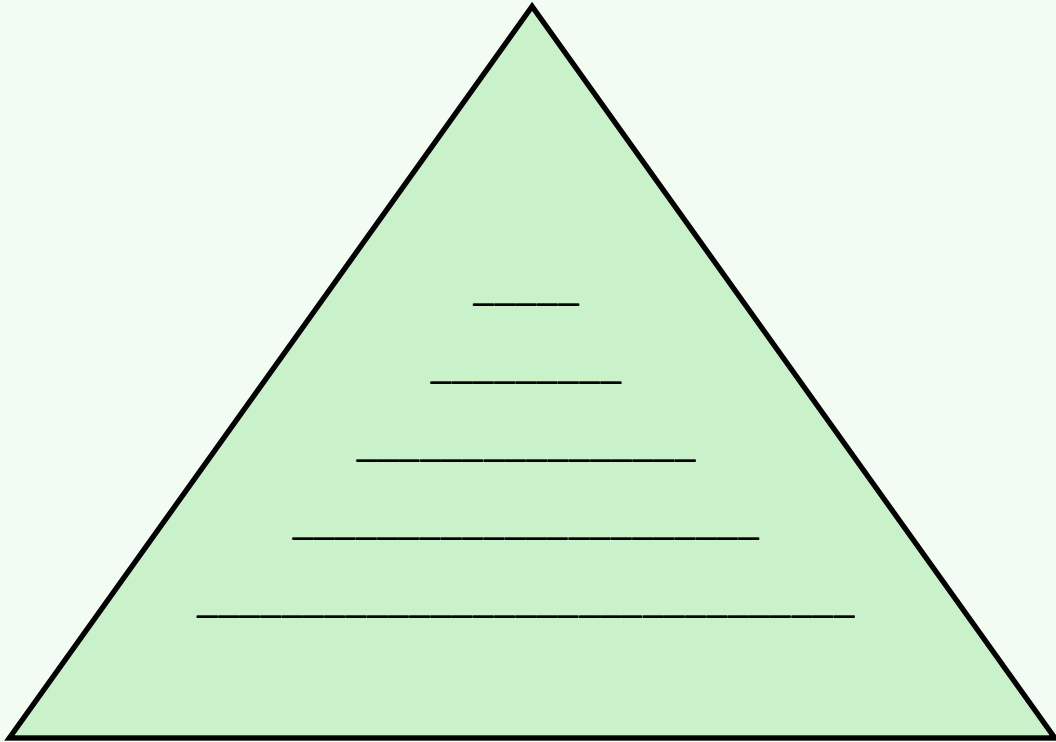
Glaring, bright

Swirling, gusting, travelling

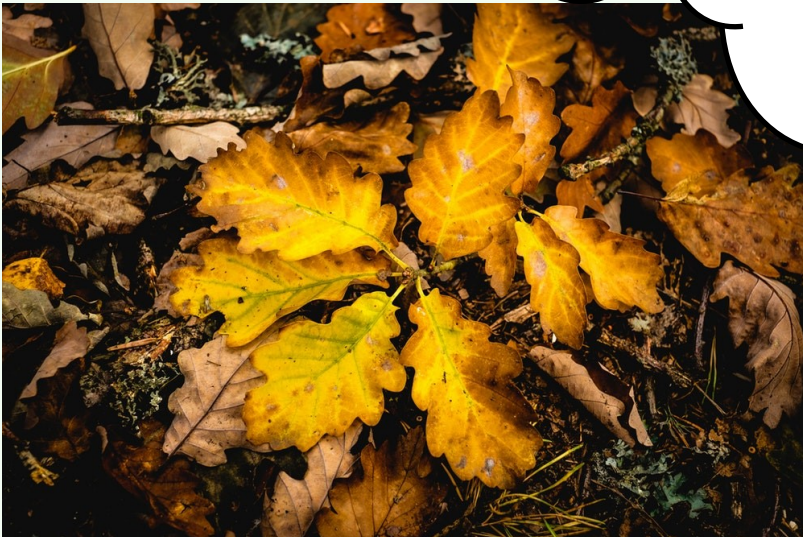
Resting, relaxing, sleeping

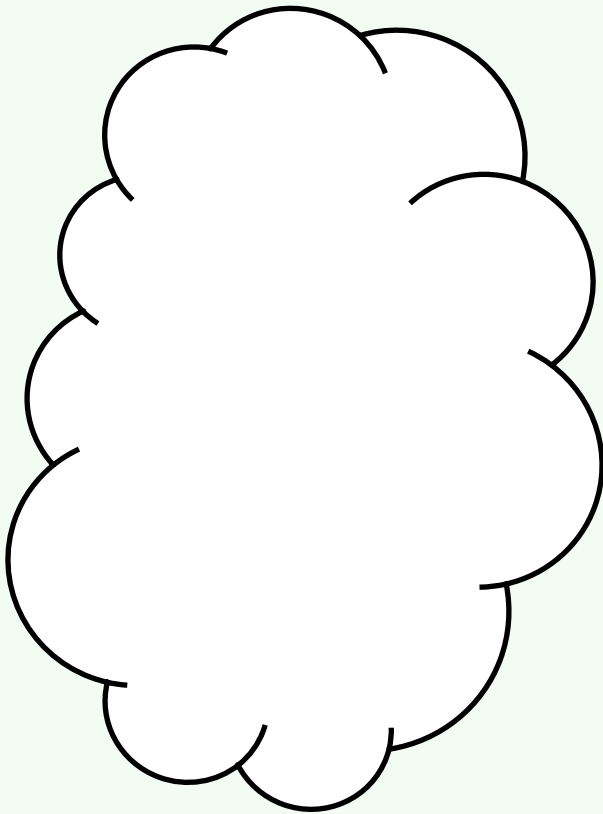
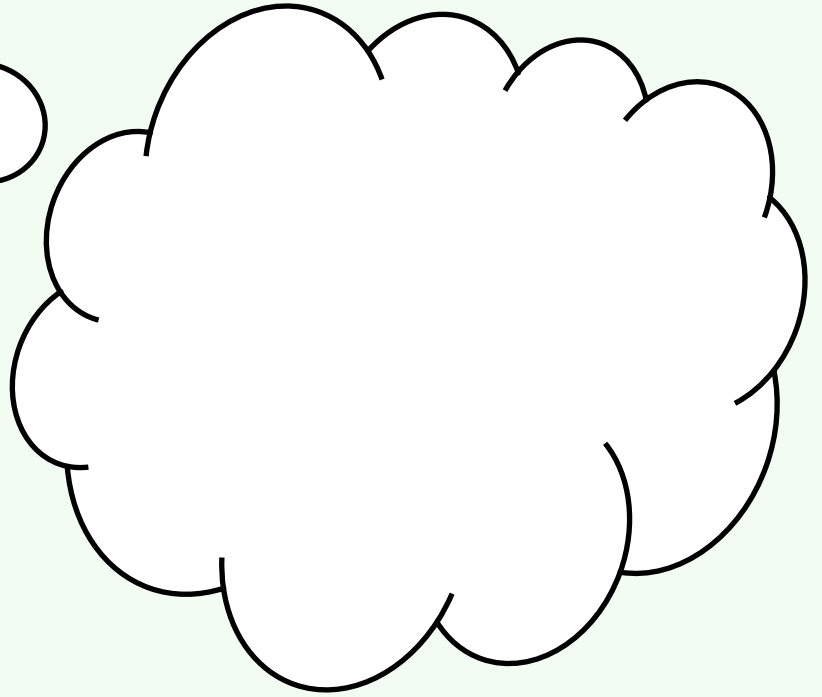
Muted, earthy

Ground









Writing Resource 2:

Life Cycle Story

Teacher Notes

The key to becoming an excellent naturalist is to continually observe, question and try to understand what is happening in the natural world throughout the seasons. Take on this story writing challenge and explore a life cycle from a different perspective.

Writing Outcome

To write a structured story from another point of view.

Resources Required

Provided in Pack:

- Gilbert's Oak - Resource Sheet 2a
- Thoughts of a tree - Resource Sheet 2b,c

Provided by school:

- Life Cycle of an Oak

Class Activity

Set the Scene:

Look at the Oak tree that Gilbert planted (resource sheet 2a) and discuss how old it may be.

Look at the time lapse videos of an acorn growing;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK4LjURtaDw>

Introduction:

Life cycle: from acorn to oak.

Research the life cycle of an oak tree and make a class display.

What is happening to the seed at each stage?
How has it changed?

What threats might the plant face at each stage?

These threats could be the climatic point in your story- -How will you resolve them?

Quick Write: look at the images of the trees in Activity sheet 2b,c- Write a thought bubble for what the plant may be feeling/thinking at this point.

Writing Task:

Write a 5 part story from the point of view of the acorn throughout its life cycle. It must have a clear...

- beginning,
- build up,
- problem,
- resolution
- ending

What view might your tree see throughout the decades? Will houses be built? Knocked down? Will a road pass by? What characters will play nearby to the tree? Will it be decorated by human for different festivals?

Letter Writing Suggestions



Write a letter to your friend who lives in the city.

- How is Selborne life different? What do you see and do here?



Write a letter to send back in time to Gilbert White.

-What do you think he would like to know about his garden and the habitats created here now?



Write a letter for a time capsule to be buried in the garden.

-Describe what wildlife can be found here.

-What is similar? Different?



Write a persuasive letter to a school in London explaining why they should come on a school trip to Selborne.



Make an ecological promise to yourself. Write a letter to your future self explaining your promise.

-Why it is important and how you will keep it?



Write a letter to the Springwatch team to persuade them to use Gilbert's Garden as the next location for their TV show.

-What animals might be filmed?

- What habitats does it have to offer?

Timothy Tortoise

4a



Gilbert White's aunt, who lived in Sussex, had a pet tortoise named Timothy. She passed him to Gilbert, who had always found the tortoise fascinating. Gilbert and Timothy's lives were very happy together and we think Timothy must have enjoyed exploring the gardens and all the fantastic hiding places there are here in Selborne! But it's a tough life being the pet of a naturalist!

On the 1st July 1781 Gilbert White wanted to see if Tortoises could swim and dunked poor Timothy into a tub of water! He wrote in his journal

'We [...] found that he sunk gradually, & walked on the bottom of the tub: he seemed quite out of his element, & was much dismayed. This species seems not at all amphibious.'

Poor old Timothy, we'd be dismayed too!

Gilbert wrote about Timothy a lot in his journal and from that we can see that Timothy enjoyed the little luxuries of life such as sunbathing and getting 'lost' in the vegetable garden, and Gilbert took excellent care of Timothy recording down his weight throughout the year and noting his hibernation pattern. However there was one mystery that was never solved about Timothy as after Gilbert White's death in 1793 it was discovered that Timothy was a girl!

Diary Entry Scenarios

Timothy got lost in the vegetable garden.



Timothy travelled to the pond.



Gilbert put Timothy in the bath.



Timothy found out he is actually a girl.

