

ODDE





# Writing Odes



Mr. George/Grade 7

# What do you love?



# What's an Ode?

ode |ōd|

(noun)

a lyric poem in the form of an address to a particular subject, often elevated in style or manner and written in varied or irregular meter.

# What's an Ode?

## Translation:

(middle school version)

a famous kind of poem where you take something you really, really love (a pet, food, a place, a sport, a hobby--anything) and pay tribute to it in an *exaggerated* way by basically "bringing it to life" and speaking to it. It doesn't have to rhyme or have rhythm.



# Ode to the Sausage

O, sausage sizzling in your succulent fat.  
You disgust humanity's vegans and vegetarians,  
yet you dissolve in spite of them  
within the depths of my mouth.

Those who say you are nothing but crude fat  
in a pigskin casing are blind to your salty sweet taste,  
your crispy softness,  
your fierce fragrance.

Considered impure by many,  
you are the devil's tool of temptation--  
a serpent of kielbasa.  
You are flavor incarnate.

Presidents have their nations  
a boot has its confident shine,  
a world of imperfection has you.

--Jimmy Morril



*Comments/Notes:*

# Ode to My Softball Loving Dad

Ode to my dad,  
Who sits in the softball stands.  
Who shouts out the encouragement and gives a helping hand.  
Who drives me to practice with a 70 mph speed  
And catches, tosses, and runs where ever he is needed.

Who keeps up with the schedules of all the games and practices,  
With my sister, and all 5 teams, he tries to please all  
And he shows me the importance of always playing fair.

The strike outs come often and so do the balls,  
they take a small roll in this great game.  
Sometimes you wonder how to mend my fast pitch soul.  
But then you see that one small thing that makes the season great.  
And perhaps it is that one big moment at the plate.

Success may not be by the hits and runs and scores.  
Sometimes it may be hard to see, it's deeper, something more...  
Softball teaches me teamwork and to depend on my friends  
Softball teaches doing your best until the very end.

It teaches me in the game of life, (without the softball hat)...  
If you want to hit the ball, you've got to swing the bat.  
A strike, a ball, it's high, it's low, it's fast or slow, it really doesn't matter.  
I tried and just because I did, I am a superstar batter!

Sometimes you wonder why you do it, but you do.



You're tired, worn out, and can't go on, but somehow get through it.  
You have shown me to believe in myself...  
Self-esteem, the love of the game...Softball!!

You may not get a thank you card or even an award  
No trophies on the shelf or a star up on your board  
But, oh, the difference you have made...just by being there for me!  
Showing your full support and loving care.

And when I am grown up, I will remember this,  
How you were my biggest fan  
The one who believed in me.  
And when the dust has settled and the scores all fade away,  
The memories of you, my biggest fan, are in my heart to stay,  
Forever.

--Angela Yodis

*Comments/Notes:*

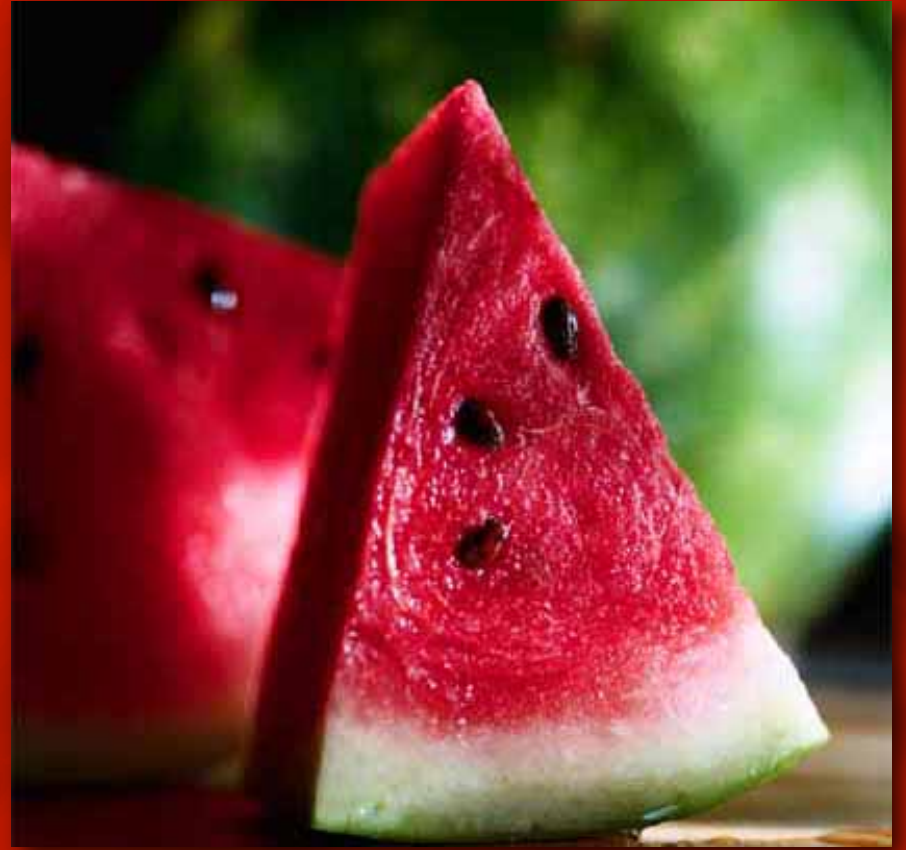
*Great Mother's/Father's Day Gift  
(and cheap, too!)*



# Ode to Watermelon

I bite into you  
and relish the burst of wild flavor  
I haven't tasted all winter.  
Your sweet juice  
floods my mouth  
buries my tongue  
in fresh pinkish flesh.  
I swallow your cold fruitiness  
and my tastebuds smile  
with excitement.  
Oh, watermelon,  
the scent of June wind,  
mixed with the heat of August sun  
washes over me  
as I take another bite  
of summer.

--Marnie Briggs



*Comments/Notes:*

# Ode to Subway

Ahhhhh...perfection.

The right amount of everything.

I watch as they  
fold each piece of cold, fresh turkey--  
one, two, three, four, five, six.

Inside I am twitching.

I can't wait to stuff  
this little piece of heaven  
in my mouth.

They wrap up my sandwich--  
in its blankie, so it doesn't get cold--  
and hand me the holy bread.

In the car I peel back each corner  
to reveal pure beauty.

I can almost hear the saints and angels  
singing

I take the first bite...

Ahhhhhhh,  
perfection.

--Hayley Bright



*Comments/Notes:*



# Ode to a Star

O, star in heaven,  
do you relax during the day  
with Zeus in his palace?  
Are you shiny from being waxed  
at the drive-thru car wash?  
Or were you once an albino fly  
that climbed high, high until you hit  
indigo flypaper, and now you're stuck,  
squirming to be free?  
Are you a diamond  
that fell off my charm bracelet  
and you're searching the midnight sky  
for the lonely chain?  
Are you the ornament  
I decorated last Christmas,  
the one the cat knocked off our tree?

I gaze into the cobalt sky  
and wish this was the night  
I might name one,  
just one, constellation  
(other than the Big Dipper,  
of course)

But no.  
Once again I fail  
as an astronomer.  
I know that I will never  
join a star gazing club  
to tally the arrival of you  
and your sisters and brothers.

O, star,  
your mother's brother's daughter's aunt  
would be my favorite constellation  
if I were ever accepted  
into the astronomer's association.  
Until then I will lie on the snow  
sing your praises, and discover my own  
constellations.

--Nora Bradford



*Comments/Notes:*

# Ode to a Basketball

Basketball,  
you rule my world.  
You make my day,  
oh, one object of my life.  
Basketball,  
you are always on my mind.  
When I'm in the gym  
I want to be with you.  
When it's late and I should be asleep  
all I can do is think of you,  
basketball, with your dark black creases  
and your bright orange crust.  
I'll dance to the music you make--  
the sound of your swish,  
the rhythm of your dribble.  
Basketball,  
I'll dive  
I'll hustle,  
I'll sprint,  
just for you.  
If I were granted three wishes  
by a genie,  
I'd ask for a court,

a hoop,  
and,  
of course,  
you, basketball.  
Friend,  
I'd do anything for you.  
Want me to run laps?  
I'll run laps.  
You want me to run across the country?  
In a heartbeat.  
Anything,  
anything,  
anything,  
for you,  
basketball.

--Liam



*Comments/Notes:*



# Tips for Ode Writing

- ❑ Choose a subject you have *strong* feelings about.
- ❑ Describe your subject inside and out.
- ❑ Exaggerate its admirable qualities, until it seems to become central to human existence.
- ❑ Tap all five senses--if they *fit*. (don't force it)
- ❑ Use *metaphors* and *similes*.
- ❑ At times, directly address the subject of your ode.
- ❑ Tell your feelings about the subject **and** describe its qualities.
- ❑ Choose strong words: *language that's packed with meaning*.

## CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECT:

The easiest way to begin “ode” making is to begin with a list of things you appreciate, enjoy and adore.

What do you *appreciate, enjoy* or *adore*?

(shoot for a list of 15 or more)



# BRAINSTORM:

Now that you've chosen a subject for your ode, create a planning sheet. List everything you notice, feel, smell, taste, hear, think and/or wonder about your topic.

List everything you *notice, feel, smell, taste, hear, think* and/or *wonder* about your topic.  
(shoot for a list of 15 or more)

# Poetic Choices

- One Stanza or Multiple Stanzas...
- What can I compare my subject to?
- Repetition









# How Will My Poem be Graded?

<i>Poetic Technique</i>	<i>"A+ " Level Performance</i>	<i>Student Score (circled)</i>
Poem Form: <i>ODE</i>	Creatively and effectively uses the appropriate poetic form.	<i>A B C D F</i>
Word Choice	Student's use of vocabulary is precise, vivid, and paints a strong clear and complete picture in the reader's mind.	<i>A B C D F</i>
Poetic Techniques	Effectively uses <b>3</b> poetic techniques to reinforce the theme.	<i>A B C D F</i>
Language Conventions	Has grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, and punctuation; contains few, if any, errors that do not interfere with the reader's understanding.	<i>A B C D F</i>
Effort	Student's work demonstrates a complete understanding of the assignment and goes beyond the requirements	<i>A B C D F</i>
Illustration	Effective and creative use of an illustration enhances the poem's meaning.	<i>A B C D F</i>

## Poetic Techniques

- alliteration
- rhyme
- onomatopoeia
- personification
- poem shape
- rhythm
- simile
- metaphor
- assonance
- hyperbole



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Poem Title: \_\_\_\_\_



# Scoring Sheet

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Circle Poetic Techniques You've Chosen & Write Line #

- alliteration:
- rhyme:
- onomatopoeia:
- personification:
- poem shape:
- rhythm:
- simile:
- metaphor:
- assonance:
- hyperbole:



**WRITING REFLECTION:** Write a few sentences about how your poem turned out. What ideas or lines are you happy about or proud of? What did you struggle with or find difficult?



# What Makes an Ode?

- ❑ Choose a subject you have *strong* feelings about.
- ❑ Describe your subject inside and out.
- ❑ Exaggerate its admirable qualities, until it seems to become central to human existence.
- ❑ Tap all five senses-if they fit. (don't force it)
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