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A GIFT OF POEMBOOKMARKS
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We all keep poems we are lucky enough to receive as gifts and this **poembookmark** has an added use.

Chose a poetry book from the library for a grandma, little sister, dad or mum - anyone special - then make a bookmark as a gift for that person. It can be used to mark a place in the book.

Each bookmark will contain a poem written specially for that person. There are two forms of poem that work really well for this: both can be about a particular person and both make short, thin poems - perfect for a bookmark!

① The first form of poem is called a **kenning**. Kennings are an ancient form of riddle that describes a person (or thing) by what he or she (or it) does. I'll show you one:



Spell checker,
class ticker,
whiteboard writer,
'hands up'per,
maths unpuzzler,
history unraveller,
sitting-still traveller.



Can you guess who I wrote this kenning for? This poem would go on a **poembookmark** for a teacher! To make a kenning, think of the person you are writing about and list things that they do. You will find a sort of rhythm will appear because many of the phrases will have 'er' at the end such as: *ball kicker, lolly licker, sister tickler.*

② The other form of poem is an **acrostic**. I'll show you one - it's by Debjani Chatterjee.



Debonair,
Elegant,
Brilliant,
Jovial,
All describe me very well.
Not accurately, perhaps, but
In my dreams I am these and more.

from *Rainbow World: Poems from Many Cultures*
(Hodder Wayland 2003)



To make an acrostic, write the name you have chosen down the side of the book mark: '**g r a n d m a**', '**m o t h e r**', '**b e s t f r i e n d**' or a first name, and see how many words you can come up with beginning with the right letters. Try and chose words that particularly describe that person.

If you want a real, real challenge try a **double-acrostic**. Each line has to start *and* end with the right letter so the name runs down the right as well as the left!

Print off the bookmarks and see how many people you can think of who would love to receive a **poembookmark** as a gift.



You will find kennings and acrostics in the poetry books at your library but here are two more to look at



Acrostic

See how the waves
Endlessly curl
After the shore.

Fish gently swirl
Over the spray
Racing the tide
Making for shore.

Kenning

He's steel-legged
With sharp toes
A hair cropper
Whether open or closed
A nail trimmer
And a paper snipper
So don't go
Crossing swords with him.

from *Paint Me a Poem: New poems inspired by art in the TATE*, Grace Nichols (A&C Black, London 2004)



Good luck with the [poembookmarks](#). I hope you make one for all your friends.