



SOLO VERSE SPEAKING (Open N1 - Ages 5 to 7)

This is a descriptive poem about a sphinx, a mythical and mysterious creature known for its sternness. The word 'desert' points to the poet depicting the famous hybrid human/animal statue in Egypt. It is written as a riddle or a puzzle as if you are unraveling an ancient mystery! The ending leaves an air of suspense and wonder. Show it on your face!

Technique

Facial Expression

Tone/Stress

Poetic Devices

Rhyme

Vocabulary

Other tips

State the title clearly and confidently. Brief pause afterwards.

Out in the Desert by Charles Causley

Storytelling, wide eyes to entice your audience who are waiting to hear what is in the desert.

Out in the desert lies the sphinx

Stress

Slightly longer pause

Stress "never" and the repetition

Internal repetition: "It never..."

It never eats and it never drink

Pause

Use a strong, loud tone for "solid" to express the meaning.

Hard

Cracks

Its body quite solid without any chinx

Pause

Eyes widen as you use imagery and completely change the mood of the poem.

Alliteration: 'p'

And when the sky's all purples and pinx

NO pause - continue

Change tone to reflect that you are now describing the sky (a large contrast with the sphinx).

(As if it was painted with coloured inx)

Pause

Imagery: sun set

Very fast

Sibilant: 's'

And the sun it ever so swiftly sinx

NO pause - continue

"As if..." is in brackets to show you are adding it as extra information - change tone and body stance.

Speed up for these 2 lines. Portray how fast the sun sets.

Behind the hills in a couple of twinx

Pause

Change your face to look as though you are sharing secret information.

Softer

Onomatopoeia

You may hear (if you're lucky) a bell that clinx

No pause - continue

Speed up

Rings

Onomatopoeia

Stress clinx and tinx

And also tolls and also tinx

Pause

Again you are telling the audience something you've heard - change tone.

And they say at the very same sound the sphinx

Pause for effect

Show that it has two expressions. *DO NOT UNNATURALLY WINK*.

Alliteration: 's'

Internal repetition: "It sometimes..."

It sometimes smiles and it sometimes winx:

Pause for dramatic effect

Slow right down and depict the mysterious nature of the Sphinx.

But nobody knows just what it thinx.

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The poem uses a lot of poetic devices to convey the message. The poem has a riddle-like form which effectively presents the nature of the Sphinx. Alliteration is the use of the same letter in words close to each other. Imagery is the use of descriptive words to evoke your senses such as visual and auditory as this poem does. This poem uses sonic imagery regarding the bells ringing and visual imagery regarding the sun setting. There is also a lot of repetition internally where a part of sentence is repeated for emphasis. Onomatopoeia is also used which means that words sounds like the things that they describe.

This is a very special poem with lots of scope for making it your 'own'. Notice the recurrent use of the 'x' - going against grammar rules and this could be applied to the sphinx, too. Imagine yourself as an explorer and deliver your description with conviction. Use voice variation and facial expression to convey the imagery, This poem plays with words a lot where the ending words match with Sphinx. Pay close attention to the 'x' sound. Most importantly enjoy the poem and take your audience on a journey to ancient Egypt.



sphinx in the desert



purple and pink sky



sunset



smile



wink

<https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

Watch this video of a church bell ringing. Hear it "ting" and "cling".

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