

EXAMPLE OF A PRAISE POEM

THANK YOU, TATA MADIBA

You became a seed of success,
A seed that grew to inspire and empower the nation
A man great at heart and always led by example
You gave us courage and strength to be stronger

Tata Nelson Mandela,
You made the impossible to be possible
Even after many years of oppression you fought for freedom of expression
You taught us to forgive after all the hardships we faced as a nation

Tata Nelson Mandela,
You became a rose that rose between the thorns of apartheid
and discrimination
You made us unite as a nation
A hero for all living in Africa
A father of the nation,

loved by millions of people around the world
Your words of wisdom forever live in us Thank you Tata,
for giving us freedom, dignity,
wisdom and power to move forward

Your legacy will forever live on
Tata Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
Freedom has really rained on Africa
because of your struggles

A freedom fighter, politician, husband, an icon, a friend
And a father of South Africa!



ACTIVITY 1:

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON PRAISE POETRY.



1. Explain in your own words what a praise poem is.
2. Who do we praise and why?
3. Can you think of anyone or anything that you would like to praise?
Who/ what and why?
4. Is writing and reciting a love poem the same as a praise poem?
Explain your answer.
5. What is the role of a praise poet in the community?
6. Discuss the performance style of a traditional praise poet.

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ACTIVITY 2: Write a short praise poem about yourself:

STEP 1: BRAINSTORMING WORDS DESCRIBING YOURSELF

Make a mind map and brainstorm as many words as you can that describe you – for example, shy, sporty, bubbly, honest, spunky or brave

STEP 2: WRITE A PRAISE POEM ABOUT YOURSELF

YOU WILL NOW WRITE A PRAISE POEM ABOUT YOURSELF, USING THE INFORMATION THAT YOU BRAINSTORMED.

LINE 1: Start by introducing yourself.

For example,
'I am Thembi' or 'Here's to Thembi'

LINE 2: Write something about your heritage, where you come from or your family.

For example,
'Child of eKomani where nothing ever happens'

LINE 3-5: Write three lines that describe who you are using animal or natural images.

For example,
'I am the rainbow that touches the dew-wet grass, calling my gentle kitten-spirit to come and dance.'

LINE 6: Repeat something about yourself or an action that you enjoy doing.

for example,
'I am crazy and so loud, loud, loud' or 'I am caring- always dancing, dancing, dancing.'

LINE 7: Repeat your first line, but phrase it differently –

for example,
'Thembi – This is me.'