


Botanical Gardens Poetry Trail

Arid House

Welcome to the desert. What does it feel like in this glasshouse? Be careful, some of the plants are very fierce! Remember what the poet said as he pulled the prickles out of his skin: "A cactus attacked us!"


Read the poem called 'The Arid House'


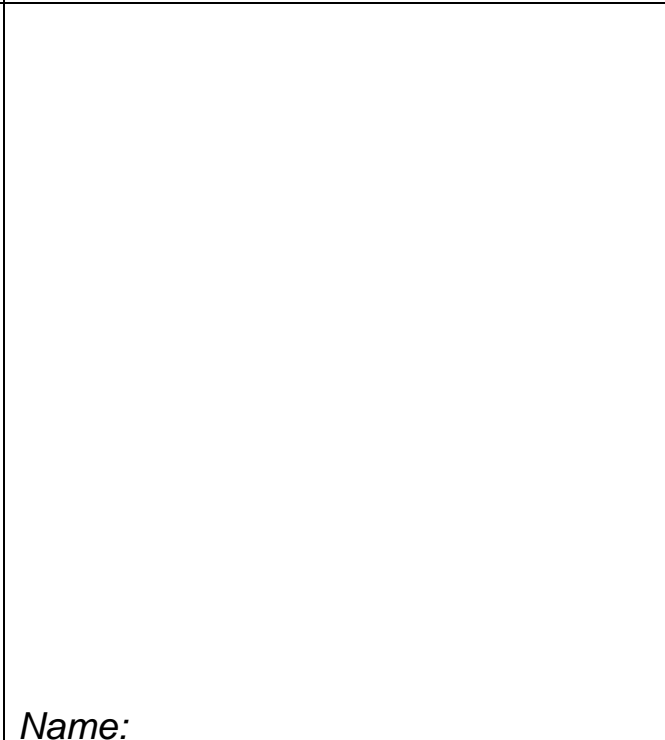
Do you notice how the poem looks like the prickly pear cactus? A poem that is shaped to look like the thing it's about is called a '**concrete poem**'.

 Write in this square the letter which appears three times in the 6th line of the poem:

Mediterranean House

We're now in the Mediterranean. You might recognise this climate if you've been on holiday to places like Spain, Greece, Turkey or Italy. It's really great for growing fruit and flowers in here.

 Choose one piece of fruit and one flower to sketch. Then write as many **adjectives** as you can think of around each picture to describe it. Try to use all your **senses** (the best poets do that to help us imagine things).

Fruit	Flower
	
<i>Name:</i>	<i>Name:</i>

Sub-Tropical House

We are now in the sub-tropical house. Find the plants behind the bars – these are carnivorous plants. This means that they eat insects (because they live in poor soil). Can you see the different ways that they attract and catch their food?


Read the poem called 'The Pitcher Plant'

This kind of poem, in which each pair of lines rhymes, is called 'rhyming couplets'.

 Write in this square the first letter of both Pitcher and Plant:

Read the poem called 'The Sundew'


In this rhyming couplet the lines rhyme whether you read it downwards or across!

 In this box write the first letter of the word that tells us how many flies were in the poem:



Tropical House

We have now arrived in the tropical rainforest (the jungle), where it's hot, wet and steamy. Can you tell the difference between here and the sub-tropical house? Look in the pool; can you see the fish, the Koi Carp? Watch the carp swimming past. What do they remind you of?

 Complete these **similes** to describe the fish. You can choose words from the boxes or think of your own similes.

The carp are _____

as bright as jewels

as scaly as snakes

as wiggly as worms

They swim in the pool like _____

ghosts

submarines

sausages

secrets


sharks

Japanese Garden

Finally we're in Japan. Go and see the Bonsai Collection. What is unusual about these plants? Why do you think some of them are inside cages?

Read the haiku poems in the Japanese Garden

A **haiku** is written in a special way. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line 7 syllables and the third line 5 syllables. Check that the haiku poems are correct by counting the syllables on your fingers as you read the words.

 Look for the large wind chimes in front of the shelter. Write the first letter of the tree in which the chimes are hanging:



Now rearrange the letters to make a word!

THE BIRMINGHAM
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

SUBTROPICAL HOUSE

'The Pitcher Plant'

A Pitcher Plant's one long green tummy
and thinks that bugs and flies are yummy.

To stop it's tummy getting thinner
it tells them all, 'Drop in for dinner!'

'Sundew'

Sundew, one fly
one chew, bye bye

JAPANESE GARDEN

'Haiku'

Every bonsai
dreams of being a tall tree -
until the wind blows