

# Leo's Poetry Workshop: Painting with Words

*Learning objective: To use descriptive vocabulary and figurative language to create imagery in poetry.*

Read Leo the Lion's poem about his favourite secret garden. Use the word bank to help you describe your own garden or favourite outdoor place. After you finish your poem, use the drawing space to illustrate the imagery you created.

In the corner of the wood, where the shadows softly play,  
The emerald leaves are dancing in the light of early day.  
A whispering stream runs over stones, as smooth as polished glass,  
While golden buttercups peek out from tangled blades of grass.  
The air is filled with fragrant blooms, a scent of sweet delight,  
And as the sun begins to fade, the stars wake for the night.

*Word bank: shimmering · whispering · velvet · golden · tangled · vibrant · fragrant · gentle · emerald · dazzling*

**1. Which two adjectives does Leo use to describe the blades of grass and the stream? (2 marks)**

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**2. The poem says the leaves are 'dancing'. What does this tell you about how the leaves are moving? (2 marks)**

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**3. Why do you think the poet chose the word 'fragrant' to describe the blooms? (2 marks)**

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**4. Write a line of your own that uses a simile to describe a flower (remember to use 'like' or 'as'). (2 marks)**

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**5. Choose one word from the word bank and explain why it is a powerful choice for a poem. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw your own secret garden based on the poem you have written. Try to include at least three of the descriptive words from the word bank in your picture.



*Extension challenge: Challenge: Add a stanza of your own to Leo's poem, using a rhyming couplet (where the last words of both lines rhyme) to describe a creature living in the garden.*