

Writing like Phillis Wheatley

As we learned in camp, Phillis Wheatley is a famous poet from the colonial era. What made her work even more amazing was that she was a woman- it was not easy for women to be allowed an education, let alone become a published author. On top of that, Phillis was of African descent. Considering Phillis lived in a time where Africans and their descendents were enslaved in the 13 colonies, she is someone we should celebrate!



- Step 1: From your camp kit, gather paper and a writing utensil (you could use your quill pen) - see quill writing instructions).
- Step 2: Learn what a couplet is:
 - A couplet is two lines of a poem
 - has the same number of syllables in each line
 - rhymes
 - Here are some couplet examples:
 - "She was a little tense / the notice made no sense."
 - 6 syllables each line
 - "tense" rhymes with "sense"
 - "I saw a little hermit crab / his coloring was so drab."
 - 7 syllables each line
 - "crab" rhymes with "drab"
 - "It's hard to see the butterfly / because he flies across the sky."
 - 8 syllables each line
 - "butterfly" rhymes with "sky"
- Step 3: Try your hand at writing as many couplets as you like. Make sure the last word of each line rhymes, and try your best to count out how many syllables are in each line!