

Example Ode to an Ordinary Object

An ode is a type of poem that gives thanks and shows gratitude. After making observations about the form and function of some ordinary objects, you will be choosing one of them to write your poem of thanks.

Directions: Read this example of an ode to pencils, a tool we use everyday. As you read, circle where you see different parts of odes being used:

- Odes are about an ordinary object
- Odes give praise or thanks (Oh, _____!)
- Odes speak directly to the object
- Use adjectives to describe the object (What does it look like?)
- Use verbs to bring the object to life (What does the object do?)
- Use figurative language to describe the object (Can you use a simile to compare this?)
- Use repeated lines

Oh, Beloved Pencil!

Oh, powerful and beautiful pencil,
nobody appreciates you, my beloved pencil,
even though you give me power
and help me brainstorm my thoughts.

Oh, powerful and beautiful pencil,
with your long yellow middle,
my fingers can give you a hug,
and the words fly from my brain to the page.

Oh, powerful and beautiful pencil,
with your soft pink eraser,
which is as pink as cotton candy,
and helps keep my notebook neat and tidy.

Oh, powerful and beautiful pencil,
your strong #2 lead comes to a point,
taking charge like the captain of a soccer
team,
marching on, one letter at a time

On with Odes!

Directions: After you have read the ode to pencils, go back to your observations about the structure and function of the objects you looked at earlier in class. Choose one of the objects you brainstormed, and practice writing an ode to show your appreciation for this ordinary thing.

I am writing an ode to: _____

Brainstorm a message you would want to tell this object:

An ode to:

What are some reasons you are thanking this object? How does this object help you?	
What does this object do? How does it function? How do you use it in your life? How is it helpful?	
What does this object look like? Can you describe the structure? What parts are most noticeable?	
What are some ways that you could describe this object using sensory details or descriptive language?	
What line do you want to repeat?	

Revision and Editing: adding personification and similes!

Personification is when you give non-human objects the abilities, thoughts, and actions of a human.

<p><i>Example from the ode to pencils:</i></p> <p>your strong #2 lead comes to a point, taking charge like the captain of a soccer team</p>	<p>Why is this an example of <u>personification</u>?</p> <p>How is the <i>pencil acting like a human</i>?</p>
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You try! Write 2-3 examples of personification to show how your object could look or feel like a human?

<i>How would this object feel or show emotion like a human?</i>	<i>How would this object move like a human?</i>	<i>How would this object act like a human?</i>

Now write 2-3 examples of similes to compare your object, using “like” or “as”

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