

PREVIEW
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ODE POEM

- An **ode** is a type of poem that honors a particular subject, person, object, or event with high praise.

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**O CHRISTMAS
TREE**
PREVIEW
"O Tannenbaum" by Ernst Anschütz 1824
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STEADFAST

(adjective)

Describes dutifully firm
and unwavering

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BEFALLS PREVIEW
(verb) NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE
to take place or occur

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SUBLIME PREVIEW
(adjective) NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Describes excellence so
grand it inspires admiration

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STANZA 1

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are your branches!
your boughs are green in summer's clime
And through the snows of wintertime.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are your branches!



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STANZA 2

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me when oft
at joyous Christmas-time
Your form inspires my song and rhyme.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me.



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STANZA 3

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson
That constant faith and hope sublime
Lend strength and comfort through all time.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson.



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QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways the speaker honors a Christmas tree?
2. What lesson can the boughs of the tree teach us?
3. What is an example of imagery from the poem/song above?
4. "Your boughs can teach a lesson" is what form of figurative language?
5. What does the tree symbolize to the speaker?



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Listen to Aretha Franklin's version of O Christmas Tree. What similarities and differences do you notice?



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WRITE YOUR OWN ODE!

First, decide what you are going to write about. What is something or someone you really appreciate? It can be living or not... a pet, socks, eggnog, furniture, etc. Create a list below to brainstorm ideas. You should include at least three reasons why you honor your subject choice.



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- Next, choose how you would like to structure your ode. Odes do not have to have a rhyme scheme, but they can. You must have a minimum of 12 lines and 2 stanzas in your poem.
- Start writing your rough draft. Remember poems are filled with imagery and figurative language. Use at least one example of each in your poem.

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FINALIZE YOUR CREATION

You may either perform or illustrate your poem.

A. If you perform your poem, you will perform in front of the class through song or slam poetry. Practice before you perform! Make sufficient eye contact with the class while speaking. Your voice should be loud and clear.

B. To illustrate your poem, first neatly handwrite your poem on paper. Decorate the page with colored illustrations that are relevant to your poem. (Another option is cut out the shape of the object you chose on a colored piece of paper, and then write your poem on the cut out design.)



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REQUIREMENTS

- Choose an object to honor in a poem
- Include three reasons why you appreciate this item
- Write 12 lines (or more) separated into 2 stanzas (or more)
- Use 1 example of figurative language
- Use 1 example of imagery
- Perform or illustrate your poem



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Name:

Date:

Christmas Ode

An **ode** is a type of poem that honors a particular subject, person, object, or event with high praise.

steadfast	adj	PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE
befalls	verb	
sublime	adj	

English Translation of “O Tannenbaum” (“O Christmas Tree”) by Ernst Anschütz 1824

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How **steadfast** are your branches!
your boughs are green in summer's clime
And through the snows of wintertime.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
What happiness **befalls** me when oft
at joyous Christmas-time
Your form inspires my song and rhyme.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson
That constant faith and hope **sublime**
Lend strength and comfort through all time.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson.

1. What are some ways the speaker honors a Christmas tree?

2. What lesson can the boughs of the tree teach us?

3. What is an example of imagery from the poem/song above?

4. "Your boughs can teach a lesson" is what form of figurative language?

5. Why is the tree important to the speaker?

6. Listen to Aretha Franklin's version of O Christmas Tree. What similarities and differences do you notice?

Write your own ode!

Decide what you are going to write about. What is something or someone you really appreciate? It can be living or not... a pet, socks, eggnog, furniture, etc. Create a list below to brainstorm ideas. You should include at least three reasons why you honor your subject choice.

I am grateful for...	Reasons Why

Odes do not have to have a rhyme scheme, but they can. You must have a minimum of 12 lines and 2 stanzas in your poem. Remember poems are filled with imagery and figurative language, so make sure you use at least one example of each in your poem. You may either perform or illustrate your poem. If you perform your poem, you will perform in front of the class through song or slam poetry. You must practice before you perform! Make sufficient eye contact with the class; your voice should be loud and clear. To illustrate your poem, first neatly handwrite your poem on paper. Decorate the page with colored illustrations that are relevant to your poem. (Another option is cut out the shape of the object you chose to honor on a colored piece of paper, and then write your poem on the cut out design.)

Requirements

- Choose an object to honor in a poem
- Include three reasons why you appreciate this item
- Write 12 lines (or more) separated into 2 stanzas (or more)
 - Use 1 example of figurative language
 - Use 1 example of imagery
 - Perform or illustrate your poem

Teacher Guide Christmas Ode

1. First, introduce your students to the ode using the Powerpoint presentation.
2. Review the vocabulary using the Powerpoint presentation.

steadfast	adj	Describes dutifully firm and unwavering
befalls	verb	to take place or occur
sublime	adj	Describes excellence so grand it inspires admiration

3. Read the translated version of "O Tannenbaum" in English (O Christmas Tree) aloud with your class.
4. Answer the questions 1—5 with your students. Listen to the song O Christmas Tree by Aretha Franklin. Linked here: [O Christmas Tree - ARETHA FRANKLIN](#) Then, have students answer question 6.

1. What are some ways the speaker honors a Christmas tree?

The speaker praises the strong and loyal branches of the tree; the tree is always steadfast through all the seasons. The speaker says that the Christmas tree inspires happiness around the holidays.

2. What lesson can the boughs of the tree teach us?

The boughs teach people to have hope because consistently having faith gives people strength through time.

3. What is an example of imagery from the poem/song above?

"Your boughs are green in summer's clime and through the snows of wintertime."

4. "Your boughs can teach a lesson" is what form of figurative language?

Personification

5. What does the tree symbolize to the speaker?

The tree is important to the speaker because it is always strong year-round symbolizing how its dependable and something the speaker can always count on. The tree symbolizes comfort to the speaker.

6. Listen to Aretha Franklin's version of O Christmas Tree. What similarities and differences did you notice?

Franklin also discusses the beauty and strength of the tree's branches throughout winter and summer. The difference is that she uses the song to compare the tree to having faith; she adds a religious interpretation of the song.

5. Lastly, assign your students to write their own ode! I don't require my students' poems to be about Christmas especially if they don't celebrate.

I hope your students enjoy this activity! Happy holidays!