

Diligence Activity

BEAVER POEM (Project, 30 minutes)

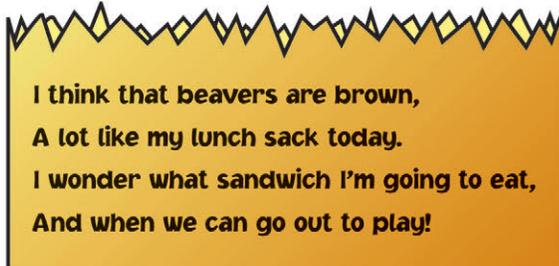
This object lesson and writing exercise illustrates how to show diligence when completing assignments.

In advance, write five example poems on the board or print the following pages. Use them to illustrate how to write a four-line poem about beavers—and how not to do it.

Start by reviewing the five “I Wills” of diligence. Then read each example poem and ask “What ‘I Will’ does this poem illustrate or fail to illustrate?”

After a thorough review of how to be diligent, designate an amount of time for the children to write their own poems (the proper way). Encourage them to be creative and apply what they know about diligence.

Example 1: (I will concentrate on my work.)



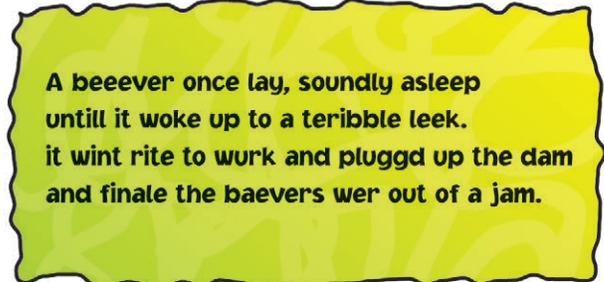
- This poem goes way off track. Did the writer concentrate on the assignment?

Example 2: (I will follow instructions.)



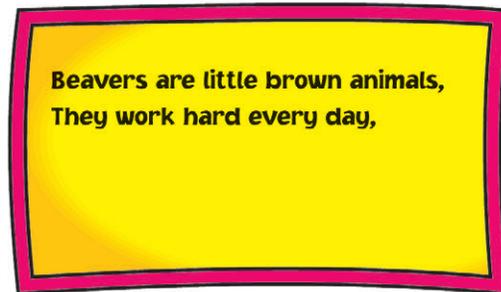
- The student wrote about a lion, not a beaver. What were the instructions?

Example 3: (I will do a job right.)



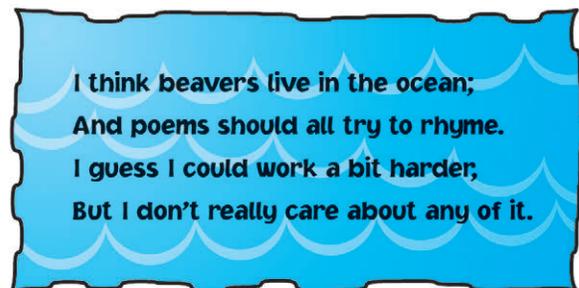
- That's a four-line poem about beavers, but is it correct? What else does it need to be totally right?

Example 4: (I will finish my projects.)



- It has only two lines. Did the student finish the poem?

Example 5: (I will not be lazy.)



- The writer didn't even try. What kind of an attitude is that?

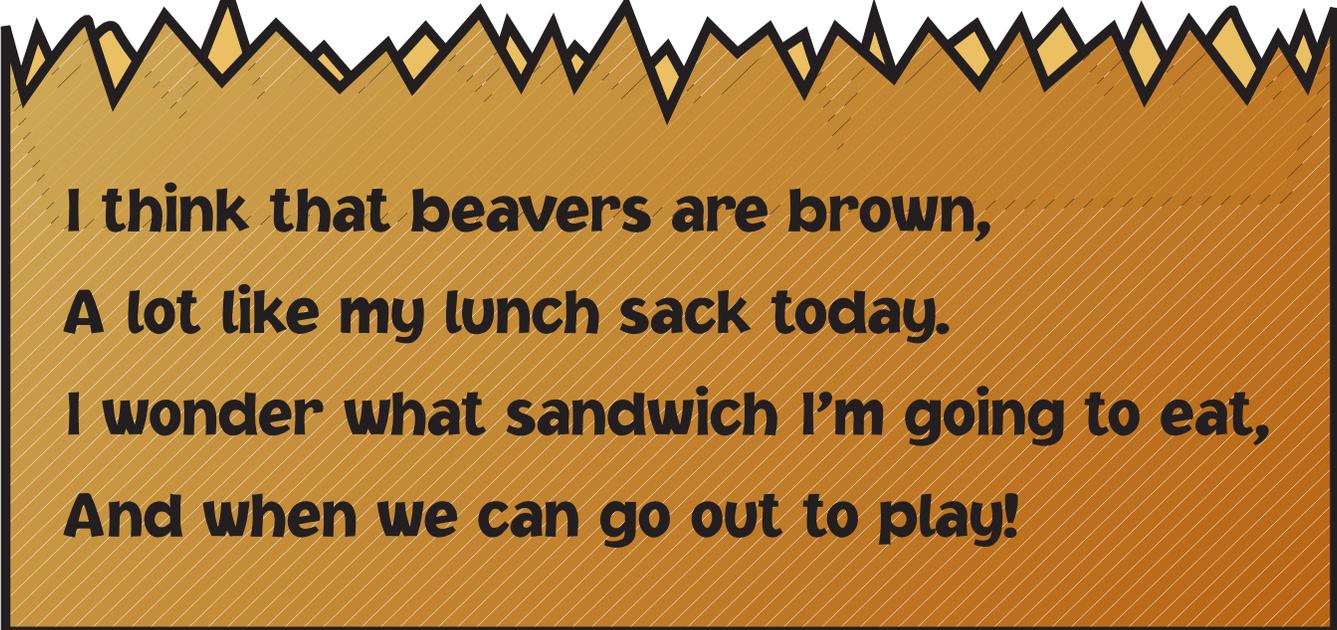
Variations:

- Use poems to decorate your classroom or hallway.
- Write poems about other animals or character qualities.
- Collect the children's work to make a book of poetry.

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Example 1: (I will concentrate on my work.)

- *This poem goes way off track. Did the writer concentrate on the assignment?*



**I think that beavers are brown,
A lot like my lunch sack today.
I wonder what sandwich I'm going to eat,
And when we can go out to play!**

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Example 2: (I will follow instructions.)

- *The student wrote about a lion, not a beaver. What were the instructions?*

**Lions are very large cats,
I think they look really scary.
They wear a big, yellow mane,
That looks incredibly hairy!**

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Example 3: (I will do a job right.)

- *That's a four-line poem about beavers, but is it correct? What else does it need to be totally right?*

**A beever once lay, soundly asleep
untill it woke up to a teribble leek.
it wint rite to wurk and pluggd up the dam
and finale the baevers wer out of a jam.**

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Example 4: (I will finish my projects.)

- *It has only two lines. Did the student finish the poem?*

**Beavers are little brown animals,
They work hard every day,**

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Example 5: (I will not be lazy.)

- *The writer didn't even try. What kind of an attitude is that?*

**I think beavers live in the ocean;
And poems should all try to rhyme.
I guess I could work a bit harder,
But I don't really care about any of it.**