

Creative ideas

English Flowers learning resource

Each arrangement on the *English Flowers* website has been carefully designed to be a work of art. Why not try to be creative yourself with wildflowers?

English Flowers Art

◆ Using the flowers as inspiration, design a repeating pattern. It could be for a textile or wallpaper design or for a painting. Try to use interesting colour combinations and contrasts, as we have done on the website.

◆ Almost all flowers are symmetrical, but some have more than one *axis* of symmetry. Search on the website under 'Fleabane' or 'Daisy' for simple symmetry and 'Rosebay' for more complex symmetry. Try designing your own symmetrical flower. How complicated can you make it before it stops looking like a flower? You could also make a symmetrical design from many flowers. There are symmetrical designs on the website (search under 'Periwinkle', 'Scabious' or 'Coltsfoot').

◆ Try flower arranging. It's best to use garden or bought flowers rather than wildflowers for this because they are usually bigger and longer stalked. Flower arrangers often use green 'oasis' to hold the stalks in place under the water – it's cheap to buy at florists' shops.

◆ Use a paint program to make digital flowers, either designing your own or using images from the *English Flowers* website.

English Flowers Poetry

◆ Write wildflower poems. We would be happy to consider putting good ones on the website if they mention one of the wildflowers in our pictures. Here are the guidelines:

1. **Make it short** – we want quality more than quantity! Between four and six lines, please.

2. There's no need to rhyme, but try to **make the words flow in a rhythm**. The examples below are in a style called *Iambic Pentameters* – if you read them out you'll see they have five long beats and five short beats in each line (di-dum di-dum di-dum di-dum di-dum).

Meadowsweet

In June the flutes of bubbling meadowsweet
Line up along the path like wedding guests

Winter Reeds

The reeds are fields of barley eight foot high,
Their tattered pennants bending in the sun,
A gaunt medieval host awaiting news
Of cities sacked or bloody battles won.

3. Can you make your words sound like noises you might hear in nature? For example: '*Reeds wishing for wind to send their seeds*' sounds like the wind blowing through the rushes.

4. Try to use **similes and metaphors** as in the two poems above.

5. Don't just describe the flower(s). **Make them mean something**. What makes them special? Do the colours or smells remind you of something? Do you notice unusual things when you look very close? Do they make you think about the meaning of life, and about whether the world was created by God or not?

6. Don't just use the website and pictures. Go out and look at real wildflowers!

7. When you're ready, go to the 'Contact' area of the website and write your poem in the 'Question' box. If your poem is accepted, you will be notified by email within one month.

Please note: *English Flowers* may not publish your poem and cannot enter into correspondence. All material on the website is the copyright of *English Flowers*.