

## Planning Guide

### Occasion Poem

#### I. Introduction – First stanza\*\*

- A. The occasion (central idea, setting, series of happenings, or situation)
- B. Significant characters
- C. Set the stage, type of poem, and structure using figurative and sensory language

#### II. Stanzas\*

- A. Identify the event or main idea
- B. Supporting details using figurative and sensory language
- C. Reflections or ideas that contribute to message

#### III. Final stanza and outcome

- A. Outcome that conveys the message of the poem
- B. Insight using figurative and sensory language
- C. Parting thought

\*There is no set number of events or details. Poets may choose any creative structure to express message of the poem that builds on a theme.

\*\*Consider the conventions of poetry

**Snowstorm**  
**By Alice Schellhorn Magrane**

S  
w  
i  
r  
l  
i  
n  
g,  
f  
l  
o  
a  
t  
i  
n  
g,  
quietly  
d  
r  
i  
f  
t  
i  
n  
g

D  
O  
W  
N  
W  
A  
R  
D.

**Frosting, dazzling...**

**B \* L \* I \* N \* D \* I \* N \* G   W \* H \* I \* T \* E \* N \* E \* S \* S .**

**I am transfixed, unmoving, still.**

**For one silent moment**

**I forget**

**what**

**lies**

**beneath.**

**The earth,  
frozen, dark,  
Cradles small ones wintering,  
Roots, bulbs, leaves, grass;  
Covered, blanketed,  
Immobile.  
A deep freeze,  
holding**

**Life**

**Suspended.**

**Time flowing,  
SNOWMELTING  
Earth shuddering.  
Roots and burrows  
Quickening,  
Buzzing,  
squirming,  
chirping,  
singing,**

**BURSTING!**

**SPRING .**

## Planning Organizer Occasion Poem

The "what" and the "who"	First stanza	<b>Snow gently falling</b>
	Occasion	
	Significant characters	
	Set the stage and structure	
	Second stanza	<b>The snow intensifies and the speaker forgets what lies beneath</b>
	Third stanza	<b>Description of the frozen earth</b>
	Fourth stanza	<b>Life suspended</b>
	Fifth stanza	<b>Time slowing and snow melting</b>
	Sixth stanza	<b>Bursting into spring</b>

## Revision Checklist Occasion Poem

Occasion	_____
Significant characters	_____
Set the stage	_____
First stanza*	
Identify	_____
Support	_____
Reflection	_____
Second stanza	
Identify	_____
Support	_____
Reflection	_____
Final outcome	
Occasion	_____
Insight	_____
Parting thought	_____

Figurative and sensory language**	Conventions of Poetry	Specific details
_____	_____	_____

The poem should include:

An introduction that focuses attention on the subject and prepares the reader for what is to follow

Supporting details in a logical order that helps the reader understand the message

Transitions to give stanzas coherence

Conclusion that may restates the occasion in fresh words and states an insight or a lesson learned from the experience

\*No set number of events or details

\*\*Use tally marks each time figurative and sensory language or other conventions of poetry are used.