



Zookeeper for a Day

SESTINA PRACTICE

Easy
Level

Instructions for Poets:

Complete this sestina by filling in the missing lines. Be sure each line ends with the word from the previous line.



Zookeeper for a Day — Sestina Practice

Practice Level: Easy

Theme: A Day at the Zoo — Six End Words: zoo, hat, roar, run, snack, fun



Word 1: zoo

Word 2: hat

Word 3: roar

Word 4: run

Word 5: snack

Word 6: fun

Instructions: This fun sestina has six stanzas and a final envoi. One line is missing from each stanza. Your challenge is to write in a new line that ends with the correct end word and fits the story!

Zookeeper for a Day

Today I took a trip to the zoo.

I wore my brightest jungle hat.

The lions gave a giant roar—

so loud it made the cheetahs run!

We stopped to have a yummy snack

[Your turn to write a line ending in 'fun']

We fed the monkeys — oh, what fun!

They danced around the whole wide zoo.

I dropped a raisin near my snack...

It bounced and landed in my hat!

[Your turn to write a line ending in 'roar']

One hippo gave a joyful roar.

The parrots sang with a wild roar,

Their colors flashing bright with fun.

A peacock started on a run,

marching proudly through the zoo.

[Your turn to write a line ending in 'hat']

I waved at birds from under my hat.

The sun was hot beneath my hat,

but I still smiled at each roar.

[Your turn to write a line ending in 'snack']

We danced like zebras just for fun.

A giraffe peeked around the zoo

to see me finish up my snack.



I shared a bite of panda snack—
he gave a bow and tipped my hat!
Then the giraffes started to run,
and the elephants let out a roar.
The penguins slipped in lines of fun,
[Your turn to write a line ending in 'zoo']

At closing time, they shut the zoo.
I saved one cracker for a snack.
I whispered, “Thanks for all the fun,”
and placed my sticker on my hat.
[Your turn to write a line ending in 'run']
Then waved goodbye with one last roar!

I loved my time inside the zoo—
the hat, the snack, the final roar—
and every moment filled with fun!



Zookeeper Poet! Badge



Cut out your badge and wear it with pride! You earned this for writing a sestina full of imagination and fun.

You can:

- Tape it to your shirt or journal
- Glue it to your poetry folder
- Hang it on the wall of fame!



Teacher Instruction Page



Zookeeper for a Day — Sestina Practice (Easy Level)

This sestina activity is designed as an early introduction to structured poetry for elementary students. It balances creative fun with guided structure, using repetition of familiar vocabulary and a playful zoo theme.

Objectives:

- Introduce the poetic form known as a sestina
- Reinforce end-word repetition and storytelling in poetry
- Provide guided creative writing practice

Materials Needed:

- 'Zookeeper for a Day' Printable Poem Sheet
- Matching Cover Page (optional for presentation or bulletin board)
- Printable 'Zookeeper Poet!' Badge (for celebration or reward)

Instructions:

1. Read the full poem together or aloud to the class.
2. Highlight the six repeating end-words: zoo, hat, roar, run, snack, fun.
3. Review the idea of repetition and how each stanza uses the same words in different ways.
4. Let students complete the missing lines in each stanza using the correct end-word. Encourage creativity while keeping the tone playful and consistent with the theme.
5. Allow students to share their versions with the class or in pairs.

Extension Ideas:

- Have students illustrate their version of the poem.
- Let them write their own 3-line envoi using all six words.
- Use the printable badge as a reward and encourage students to display their work.

This activity can be completed independently, in small groups, or as a whole-class guided lesson.

It's ideal for ages 7–10 and aligns with language arts standards focusing on creative writing, pattern recognition, and expressive language development through structured poetic forms.

Most importantly — have fun and celebrate their poetic voices!