



Introduction to the Sestina

**Sestina Day Surprise
Short Story**

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Sestina Day Surprise!

A Poetry Day Story



It was Poetry Friday in Ms. Maple's class, and a buzz of excitement filled the room. Leo slumped in his seat. "I like rhymes and short poems. But a form that repeats six words? That's too weird."

Ms. Maple smiled as she held up a shiny jar. Inside were slips of paper with six silly words: fish, hat, splash, sand, sun, and giggle. "This," she said, 'is a sestina. It's a magical poem that weaves these six words into a rhythm of repetition!'

Zara raised her hand. "But won't it sound the same every time?"

Ms. Maple shook her head gently. "You'd be surprised what stories live inside repeated words."

She opened her notebook and read:

**'I saw the silliest little fish —
it wore a bright and bouncy hat!
It gave a wiggle, then a splash,
and flopped right up onto the sand,
then blinked three times up at the sun
and made a high-pitched, bubbly giggle.'**

The class erupted in laughter. Even Leo smiled a little.

'Want to try writing your own stanza?' Ms. Maple asked.

Leo picked up his pencil. 'I think I'll try the word... giggle first.'

By the end of class, every student had crafted their own stanza — some funny, some thoughtful, all uniquely theirs.

And Leo? He stood tall and read his aloud, ending with a proud giggle of his own.

"Turns out," he said, 'this weird poem thing is kind of fun.'



Sestina Star Certificate

Awarded to a brave and brilliant young poet



**For creating a whimsical, wonderful, and totally
original sestina!**

**You used your imagination, played with words, and let
your creativity shine.**

Name

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

You're officially a Poet of the Playground!



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Sestina Day Surprise! – Teacher Prompts & Extension Ideas

This printable is designed to accompany the 'Sestina Day Surprise!' story.

Use these prompts and ideas to deepen discussion, spark creativity, and reinforce understanding of poetic structure

▪ Discussion Prompts:

- What did you notice about the six words Ms. Maple used?
- Did it feel different hearing the same words more than once?
- Which stanza or line was your favorite? Why?
- What word would you choose to end a line with? Why?



▪ Extension Activity:

Invite students to create their own silly or meaningful six-word list.

Challenge them to write a mini stanza using one of their chosen words at the end of each line.

Optional: Pair them up and have them read their stanzas aloud!

The certificate is provided in three variations. Color, mono, and an additional mono theme.

Enjoy!

I would love to see your classroom's masterpieces! You can upload samples on the website by going to the "Contact Us" section and selecting "Send a Note."

One of your stars could be featured in our Treasure Trove Spotlight!