

The Sun, The Wind and The Rain

A teachers' guide

Writing Activity

Writers like to repeat sounds. It's fun to do. It's like finding colors that match or like playing musical notes that sound good together. Repeated sounds in a piece of writing make it more musical, more poetic.

Here are some repeated sounds in The Sun, The Wind and The Rain:

crumble, tumble
handful of sand
mound of sand
bump on the beach

First ask your students to write a paragraph about their own most recent visit to the beach.

Then read The Sun, The Wind and The Rain. Point out a few of the repeated sounds. Repeated sounds can come at the beginning, the middle, or the end of a word. Ask students to find some more examples in the story.

Then ask them to look at their own paragraph and try to find ways to revise it by adding some repeating sounds.

It's fun to hear both versions out loud, to listen for the differences.

Science Activity

Have your students build their own sand mountain with wet sand packed hard like the one Elizabeth makes. Do it outside on the ground or inside on a waterproof surface, like a metal tray.

Decorate it! You can use twigs for trees or pebbles for animals as Elizabeth did, or you can try something different. You can even make a town.

With a sprinkler for rain, see how your mountain wears down. Do rivers form and grow? Do houses and trees fall over? Can the kids think of a place in the United States where landslides happen frequently? Can the kids think of examples of erosion near school or their own homes? What can people do to prevent erosion?