

Voice or Writer?

Sort the person speaking from the person writing.

5.9.B “explain the use of sound devices and figurative language and distinguish between the poet and the speaker in poems across a variety of poetic forms;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

SPEAKER

The speaker is the voice that talks in a poem. The speaker can be a made-up person, animal, or thing.

A poem says, “I stretch my wings above the lake.”
The speaker could be a bird.

POET

The poet is the person who writes the poem. The poet may create a speaker who is different from them.

Mina Patel writes a poem about a storm. Mina Patel is the poet.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SPEAKER or POET for each item, then pick two items and explain how you knew.

1. The voice that says, “I lost my mitten in the snow.”

SPEAKER

POET

2. A talking tree that tells readers about its long life.

SPEAKER

POET

3. The person who chose the poem’s words and wrote them down.

SPEAKER

POET

4. The voice that says, “My backpack feels heavy today.”

SPEAKER

POET

5. The author whose name appears below the poem’s title.

SPEAKER

POET

6. A writer who creates a poem from the viewpoint of a puppy.

SPEAKER

POET

7. The moon in a poem that says, “I watch over the town.”

SPEAKER

POET

8. The person who writes a poem about an astronaut.

SPEAKER

POET

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a SPEAKER and one new example of a POET.

SPEAKER _____

POET _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-line poem with a made-up speaker, then explain in one sentence why the speaker does not have to be the poet.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The voice that says, "I lost my mitten in the snow."	SPEAKER	This is the voice talking inside the poem.
2	A talking tree that tells readers about its long life.	SPEAKER	The tree is the voice speaking in the poem.
3	The person who chose the poem's words and wrote them down.	POET	The poet writes the poem.
4	The voice that says, "My backpack feels heavy today."	SPEAKER	This is the voice talking in the poem.
5	The author whose name appears below the poem's title.	POET	The named author is the poet.
6	A writer who creates a poem from the viewpoint of a puppy.	POET	The writer is the poet, even though the puppy speaks in the poem.
7	The moon in a poem that says, "I watch over the town."	SPEAKER	The moon is the voice speaking in the poem.
8	The person who writes a poem about an astronaut.	POET	The person writing the poem is the poet.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SPEAKER:** A candle says, "I glow through the dark night."
- **POET:** Luis Gomez writes a poem about a candle.

Challenge: I am a pebble beside the stream. Water rushes past my smooth gray sides. The speaker is a pebble, but the poet can be a person who made up the pebble's voice.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept answers that correctly identify the speaker as the voice within the poem and the poet as the person who wrote it. In the challenge, students should include two poem lines and explain that a poet can invent a speaker.