

The Different Faces Of Christmas in 'jackiwa' format by Judi Billcliff

Christmas

Frazzled, hassled,
Forgetting the reason,
Busy with everything else -
Shopping, cooking, packing, travelling,
People fall apart,
Frayed tempers -
Regrets.



Christmas -

Joyous, spiritual,
Celebrating the occasion
As families come together
Embracing, laughing, giving, receiving.
Surrounded with love.
Precious memories -
Gratitude.



Christmas

Exciting, thrilling.
Anticipation building inside,
Presents waiting, tempting me -
I sneakily squeeze them.
Ripping them open
Elated, triumphant-
Playtime!



Christmas –

Sadness, despair
No celebrating here.
No money for gifts
Or extra delicious treats.
A stranger appears -
Kind, generous,
Thankful.



Now write your own 'jackiwa' poem about your Christmas, or maybe the perfect Christmas. We all celebrate differently, because we have different beliefs and traditions. Some people don't live near to family so celebrate alone, others get together with friends. Some choose to work in community kitchens helping prepare food for those who are homeless. Some families go to church, some head to the beach, while others celebrate on Christmas Eve.

A JACKIWA POEM - juh-key-waa

- ❖ **A jackiwa Poem is a Judi Billcliff idea.**
- ❖ **It is structured like a (sideways) triangle where poets tell their story in a minimalistic way.**
- ❖ **A jackiwa poem tells a simple but complete story in 8 lines:**

1 word: topic

2 words: use adjectives/describing words

3 words: uses verbs/action

4 words: story builds up

4 words: start to resolve the poem

3 words: use verbs/action

2 words: use adjectives/describing words

1 word: ties back to topic

I love writing poems. While I mainly write in rhyme, I enjoyed coming up with this format, as it is about telling a complete story with no fancy bits.

A beginning, a middle and a conclusion in 8 lines.

I'm having great success with this format in classrooms right across the country. Be it your keen writers, or those who find writing more of a challenge, they can all succeed when writing a 'jackiwa.'

It can sometimes be written as free verse not worrying about verbs and adjectives.

As an extension, jackiwa poems could be fun to act out by adding more details to the story.