# Hologram poetry lesson

## Years 5 and 6

In this lesson, students are introduced to an exciting way to present a poem – as a visual illusion. They explore holograms and visual illusions, and then delve into the mechanics of poetry construction by exploring the poetry of Banjo Paterson. They write their own poem or recite a poem and create a hologram illusion of themselves reciting a poem.

Curriculum links

### English

[AC9E5LE04](https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/learning-areas/science_english_design-and-technologies/year-5/content-description?subject-identifier=ENGENGY5&content-description-code=AC9E5LE04&detailed-content-descriptions=0&hide-ccp=0&hide-gc=0&side-by-side=1&strands-start-index=0&subjects-start-index=0&view=advanced) – examine the effects of imagery, including simile, metaphor and personification, and sound devices in narratives, poetry and songs

[AC9E5LY07](https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/learning-areas/science_english_design-and-technologies/year-5/content-description?subject-identifier=ENGENGY5&content-description-code=AC9E5LY07&detailed-content-descriptions=0&hide-ccp=0&hide-gc=0&side-by-side=1&strands-start-index=0&subjects-start-index=0&view=advanced) – plan, create, rehearse and deliver spoken and multimodal presentations that include relevant, elaborated ideas, sequencing ideas and using complex sentences, specialist and technical vocabulary, pitch, tone, pace, volume, and visual and digital features

### Science

[AC9S5U03](https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/learning-areas/science_english_design-and-technologies/year-5/content-description?subject-identifier=SCISCIY5&content-description-code=AC9S5U03&detailed-content-descriptions=0&hide-ccp=0&hide-gc=0&side-by-side=1&strands-start-index=0&subjects-start-index=0&view=advanced) – identify sources of light, recognise that light travels in a straight path and describe how shadows are formed and light can be reflected and refracted

### Mathematics

[AC9M5SP01](https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/learning-areas/science_english_design-and-technologies_mathematics/year-5/content-description?subject-identifier=MATMATY5&content-description-code=AC9M5SP01&detailed-content-descriptions=0&hide-ccp=0&hide-gc=0&side-by-side=0&strands-start-index=1&subjects-start-index=3&view=advanced) – connect objects to their nets and build objects from their nets using spatial and geometric reasoning

### Design and Technologies

[AC9TDE6P03](https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/learning-areas/science_english_design-and-technologies/year-6/content-description?subject-identifier=TECTDEY56&content-description-code=AC9TDE6P03&detailed-content-descriptions=0&hide-ccp=0&hide-gc=0&side-by-side=1&strands-start-index=0&subjects-start-index=0&view=advanced) – select and use suitable materials, components, tools, equipment and techniques to safely make designed solutions

## Learning hook

Follow [these instructions](https://www.bealsscience.com/post/2016/02/15/3d-hologram-projector-for-you-phone-or-tablet) to learn how to construct a square pyramid. Use a computer, iPad or phone with the square pyramid to demonstrate a 3D hologram illusion with this [YouTube clip](https://youtu.be/Y60mfBvXCj8).

Ask students to share their observations of the demonstration. Explain that this is a hologram illusion, actually called a [Pepper’s Ghost illusion](https://www.artofplay.com/blogs/articles/spectral-illusions-the-peppers-ghost-effect-and-how-it-works).

As a class, research:

* What is a hologram? What’s the difference between a hologram and a hologram illusion?
* What is the Pepper’s Ghost illusion? How did Walt Disney use Pepper’s Ghost?
* Who invented the Pepper’s Ghost illusion?
* How does the Pepper’s Ghost illusion work? Can you use diagrams to explain?

See the Resources section below for some useful ‘explainer’ websites.

Show students [this clip](https://youtu.be/FTQpoMEKxJM) of a head reciting a poem. As a class, discuss how students think this was created.

Girls in focus: Some girls are highly motivated by creative pursuits and Pepper’s Ghost illusions and holograms have been used in a wide range of creative endeavours. Students may be interested in exploring the work of Margaret Benyon, an artist who used holography in the late 1960s, or the use of illusions based on the Pepper’s Ghost technique in events such as Madonna’s appearance with the band Gorillaz at the 2006 Grammy Awards or ABBA’s 2022 Voyage concerts. See the Resources section for links to these examples.

## Learning input

Read [*Meet Banjo Paterson*](https://kristinweidenbach.com/books/meet-banjo-paterson/), a picture book by Kristin Weidenbach, to students.

As a class, discuss the most famous poems. Ask students:

* Which poems have you heard?
* What was the poem about?
* How could you tell it was Australian?

As a class, view [this animation](https://youtu.be/CLLzWKEtrQk) of Banjo Paterson reciting his poem, ‘The Man from Snowy River’.

As a class, work through the steps in analysing a poem.

1. Summarising the events in the poem.
2. Identifying how the poem is similar and different to other poems.
3. Interpreting vocabulary.
4. Identifying rhyming patterns.
5. Analysing the effect of illustrations on the poem.
6. Expressing an opinion of the poem.

In smaller groups, have students read picture books of ‘Waltzing Matilda’, ‘Mulga Bill’s Bicycle’, ‘Clancy of the Overflow’ and other Banjo Paterson poetry. Students who need support could watch a YouTube clip of ‘Mulga Bill’s Bicycle’ being read aloud.

Students then discuss and make notes of interesting scenes. They should focus on unusual vocabulary and the actual story of the poem. They then conduct their own analysis of the poem using the steps listed above.

Students can then write their own Australian poem or select an Australian poem to present. Explain that their presentation should focus on fluency, expression, pausing and tone.

Girls in focus: Students are often inspired when they make a connection to role models who have similar backgrounds to their own. Consider providing Australian poetry options by women, such as Dorothea Mackellar or Judith Wright, or First Nations poets, such as Oodgeroo Noonuccal. See the Resources section for more poetry websites.

Learning construction

Explain to students that they are going to make a holograph of themselves reading an Australian poem.

Use this [template](https://www.bealsscience.com/post/2016/02/15/3d-hologram-projector-for-you-phone-or-tablet) to help students make a square pyramid. You will need dark transparent plastic to measure and cut out (for example, using a dark transparent acrylic material and a laser cutter) and tape to join the two ends together.

Once students have constructed their pyramid, they video themselves reciting the poem. They will need to export the video from the camera roll into the video editor, trim the video and then save it.



Students can then use PowerPoint to make a hologram by following these steps.

1. Open PowerPoint.
2. Click on shapes and draw a rectangle over the whole slide.
3. Fill the rectangle with black.
4. Insert the poem video into the PowerPoint slide (click Media > Video > From computer).
5. Crop the video to just the head.
6. Blend black by clicking on Video > Format > Corrections.
7. Select the best correction (note there are more in Options).
8. Duplicate the video four times and rotate each video to make hologram set up as below:

 

1. To align the video, go to Animation > Animation Pane.
2. Click on each video and drag into the animation pane to get rid of the trigger.
3. Highlight each video and click Start > Start with previous.
4. Add animation to zoom in or create other effects.

Girls in focus: Learning experiences that require creative and technological skills are a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate students’ particular areas of expertise. Consider identifying individual students as ‘coaches’ for each stage of this task: the poetry performance, the video recording and the PowerPoint design. Taking on a ‘coach’ role may enable students less vocal in whole group contexts to showcase their expertise in other ways.

Once students have set up their PowerPoint, they can play their holograms for their peers, and both provide and receive feedback.

## Resources

[Kids Britannica: Hologram](https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/hologram/399502)

[Science World: The Pepper’s Ghost Hologram Illusion](https://www.scienceworld.ca/resource/peppers-ghost-hologram-illusion/)

[Instructables: The Pepper’s Ghost Illusion](https://www.instructables.com/The-Peppers-Ghost-Illusion/)

Video: [Benyon holograms – How to Make a 3D Hologram Video of Yourself in PowerPoint](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WjJrMNZLzg)

Video: [ABBA Voyage Trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WjJrMNZLzg)

Video: [Bill Nye explains hologram with emoji](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoqmeXGz-LI)

Art of Play: [The Pepper’s Ghost effect](https://www.artofplay.com/blogs/stories/spectral-illusions-the-peppers-ghost-effect-and-how-it-works)

[Red Room Poetry](https://redroompoetry.org/)