

## TWO-VOICE POEM

A Two-Voice Poem is a way for an author to juxtapose characters. These poems are written from two different people's points of view on the same theme. Possible themes can be: opposites attract; leaders help their people; you cannot have happiness without sadness; love conquers all . . . etc.

Below is a sample two-voice poem on the theme “opposites attract,” and it is written from the viewpoints of Batman and the Joker.

### “Opposites Attract”

| Batman                                       | Both Say This           | Joker   |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| I am Batman.                                 |                         |   |
|  |                         | I am the Joker.   |
| I am a hero.                                 |                         |   |
|  |                         | I am a villain.   |
|  | I have secrets.         |   |
| Every day I fight crime caused by the Joker. |                         |   |
|  |                         | Every day I perpetrate crimes which are solved by Batman. |
|  | We are total opposites. |   |
| I am humble.                                 |                         |   |
|  |                         | I crave attention.  |
| People admire me for my work.                |                         |   |
|  |                         | People fear me for my work.                               |
| I have a loyal sidekick.                     |                         |   |
|  |                         | I wish I had a sidekick.                                  |
| Without the Joker . . .                      |                         |   |
|  |                         | Without Batman . . .                                      |
|  | I AM NOTHING!           |   |

The author is juxtaposing Batman and the Joker by putting them on opposite sides of the same theme. We first hear from Batman and then the Joker, and their voices alternate as we read through the poem. Notice that, even though these two people are very different, there are some things that they have in common: “I have secrets”; “We are total opposites”; “I am nothing”. If the poem was being read by these two characters, they would say the things they have in common at the same time.

**Now you are going to write your own two-voice poem using Salva and Nya as the voices.**

ALWW Unit 3

❖ **Overview:** We have read a novel about South Sudan and some articles with factual information about the country, its peoples, and the Second Sudanese Civil War. Now you will have a chance to share what you have learned from all of these resources by writing a two-voice poem from the perspectives of Salva and Nya.

❖ **Your Task:** Write a research-based two-voice poem spoken by Nya and Salva that expresses how these characters survived in challenging environments. Your poem must use details from our readings. You must also include quotes from A Long Walk to Water AND quotes from the articles about Sudan.

❖ **Possible Survival Themes:** 1) perseverance is necessary to survive; 2) survival requires physical strength; 3) survival requires emotional strength; 4) people must help each other in order to survive; 5) a strong family is a survival advantage; 6) write your own theme (must be approved)

➤ **Poem grading checklist:** Your poem . . .

- 1) Is written about a common theme (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Explains at least one way Salva survived a challenge (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Explains at least one way Nya survived a challenge (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Poem includes a quote from story on Salva's side (5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Quote is written, punctuated, and cited correctly (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Poem includes a quote from story on Nya's side (5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Quote is written, punctuated, and cited correctly (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Poem includes a quote from an article on Salva's side (5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Quote is written, punctuated, and cited correctly (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Poem includes a quote from an article on Nya's side (5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Quote is written, punctuated, and cited correctly (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) There are at least three things that both characters say (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) On a separate page, a works cited list is included
  - Citations are written correctly (5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - All citations are included (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Has a rough draft with editing marks AND a final copy (10) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Below is an example of a two-voice poem that meets all of the above requirements using Uncle Jewiir and Nya’s uncle as the two voices.**

**“Leaders Help Their People”**

| <b>Uncle Jewiir</b>   | <b>Both Say This</b>                           | <b>Nya’s Uncle</b>  |
|---|--|---|
| Life challenges us . . .  |  | . . . here in Sudan.  |
|   |  | “Every year when the rains stopped and the pond near the village dried up . . .” (26)<br>“There was a big lake three days’ walk from Nya’s village.” (26) |
|   | my people were forced to leave our village . . |   |
|   |  | . . . every year to find water  |
| . . . running for their lives   |  |   |
| “More than 4 million people were forced to flee their homes” (“Time Trip: Sudan’s Civil War”) |  |   |
|   | For my family, I would do anything.            |   |
| “ ‘You only need to walk as far as those bushes, Salva’ ” (53)                                |  |   |
|   | I will take opportunities                      |   |
|   |  | “ . . . to create a future that might be different . . . ” (Water for Sudan)  |
|   |  | A well  |
| A refugee camp  |  |   |
|   |  | A school  |
|   | Tomorrow will be better than today . . .       |   |
|   |  | . . . for Nya.  |
| . . . for Salva.  |  |   |

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**Poem Outline Page 1**

**Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Salva</b> | <b>Both Say This</b> | <b>Nya</b> |
|--------------|----------------------|------------|
|              |                      |            |
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