

LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 17

Learning Object 3: How I express myself

Exercise 1

Provide an English translation of the *pantun*, and then summarise its meaning.

Answer:

If there is a well in the field,
I would like to use it to take a bath.
If I live long,
We'll meet again.

This *pantun* is a wish for a long life for those present so that all can meet again in the future.

Exercise 2

Sample answers:

2.1 Write down the theme for your English *pantun*.

The poem will be about those who make the best of things that come to them. It will employ two images: one of eating the fruit that falls from a tree while enjoying the shade the tree provides; and another of a man courting a girl while he wears a beautiful suit, even though it is second-hand.

2.2 Write a *pantun* in English.

In the shade beneath the fig tree
The orchard keeper eats fallen fruit.

The smiling man who courts me in the garden
is wearing a rich man's second-hand suit.

2.3 Choose a theme for your Indonesian *pantun*. What will the *pantun* be about?

The theme of my Indonesian *pantun* is the unattainable love between people of different social status. I will be using birds as images.

2.4 Write a *pantun* in Indonesian inspired by the sample *pantun*.

Burung nuri burung elang,
Tak dapat terbang sama tinggi.

Tuan puteri berangkat pulang,
Bilakah dapat berjumpa lagi?

2.5 Provide a translation in English of your Indonesian *pantun*.

The parrot and the eagle,
Cannot fly as high.

Your highness (princess) is now leaving,
When will we meet again?

Exercise 3

Sample answers:

3.1 What did you find most exciting and interesting about writing *pantun*?

Writing a *pantun* is exciting because I get to try something new. It was hard writing a *pantun* in English, but I was particularly interested to see if I could write a *pantun* in Indonesian. Researching the words and phrases that I have to use was also interesting. I learned the meaning of many new words. This process took a long time and I needed to use a very good dictionary.

3.2 What did you find most challenging about writing *pantun*?

Writing a *pantun*, especially in Indonesian, was definitely not easy. First of all, I had to find the Indonesian words to convey what I wanted to say. Then I had to make sure they rhymed. I also had to make sure that the number of syllables in each line were the same. Lastly, and I think this was the most difficult thing to do, I had to make sure that what I had written in the first two lines was connected to, but different from, the last two lines.