

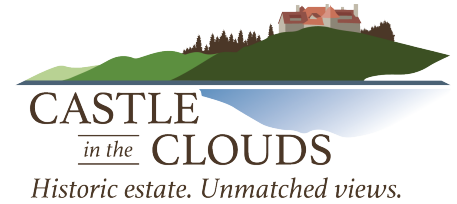
# Verse or Vignette

## Post-Visit Activity

**Grades/Level:** Middle – High School (6+)

**Subjects:** English

**Time Required:** Variable



### Activity Overview

Take inspiration from your visit to Castle in the Clouds to pen a poem or evocative description based on your experience.

### Learning Objectives

- Youths will review common styles of poetry and descriptive writing.
- Youths will create original poetry or prose, following the given writing process.
- Youths will reproduce writing skills such as rhythm, rhyming, and descriptive vocabulary.

### Activity Steps

- 1.) Read "Lucknow" on the following pages, or use the QR code or link to hear a reading of the poem.

<https://youtu.be/WDtGFPJv9JM>

- 2.) Reflect on Olive's inspiration for writing this poem. What experiences and emotions does she explore in verse?

- 3.) Either, use the link or QR code at right to review the characteristics of different styles of poetry,

<https://www.literacyideas.com/latest/2018/3/1/7-poetry-forms-every-teacher-should-be-teaching-and-why-they-should-be-teaching-them>

- 4.) Or, review the characteristics of short stories, flash fiction, and vignettes on the following pages.

- 5.) Choose a style of poetry or prose to emulate.

- 6.) Reflect on your visit to Castle in the Clouds, making note of memorable experiences. What did you do during your visit? What did you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch? What emotions did you feel and what were those emotions linked to?

- 7.) Use your reflections from the previous step as inspiration in drafting your own poem or vignette.



## *LUCKNOW*

On a foot hill of the mountain  
Stands a sturdy house of stone  
On the lawn in front, a fountain;  
And the house is vine o'ergrown.

For the eyes of those who dwell there  
Nature has a wonderous feast;  
A lovely lake lies in the distance,  
Mountains to the West and East.

Guests who enter to this dwelling  
Stand in wonder and amaze,  
For such a view as is unfolded  
Ne'er before has met their gaze.

To each guest there is presented  
At this dwelling on the hill,  
A varied list of pleasant pastimes,  
Of which each may take his fill.

Does this one Angle? A ruffled lake  
Presents its surface to his fly,  
And each leaping trout that he pulls out  
Spurs him on once more to try.

Does this one Golf? A rolling field  
Covered with velvet of emerald sheen;  
Constantly tempts him, lures him on  
To try his skill at just one more green.

Does this one ride? A pleasant steed  
Will carry him over the hills all day  
Till evening comes with the setting sun,  
Reminder, "Don't be too long away."

Does this one walk? A valley fair  
Cradles a rushing impetuous stream,  
And hearing its chatter and endless patter,  
One wonders and watches its broken gleam.

So to each guest is his desire;  
And when the day too soon has past,  
In the twilit hall, by the open fire  
Each one agrees, "I'm in Luck Now at last."

By Olive Dewey Plant

*(from The History of the Castle in the Clouds by P. Gray)*

# What Is the Difference Between a Vignette, a Short Story, and Flash Fiction?

Vignettes are sometimes confused with short stories and flash fiction, but there is one major difference between them: Short stories and flash fiction are complete works, while a vignette is a smaller part of a story. Here are the defining characteristics of each:

## **Short story:**

- A short literary work of (on average) 1,000 to 10,000 words.
- A full narrative structured with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Features a protagonist and a central conflict and progresses through time.

## **Flash fiction:**

- A very short literary work that is usually less than 1,000 words.
- Follows a story arc with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Usually starts the story in the middle of the conflict or action.
- Also referred to as “postcard fiction” or “micro-fiction.”

## **Vignette:**

- Short scenes within a larger story that are usually under 1,000 words.
- Designed to give more visual context to a character, place, or event.
- Not bound to a narrative structure; rather, focuses on description.
- Time doesn’t pass in a vignette; it describes a moment in time.

From MasterClass.com

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/what-is-a-vignette-in-literature-defining-the-literary-device-plus-5-tips-on-writing-vignettes#what-is-a-vignette>