In class one morning, Miss Green talked about poems. She explained that ideas for poems could sprout from all over. Different things can influence poets. There are poets that have seen a single meteor in the night sky and written about it. There are poets that have written poems about the cruel, cold January weather.

Miss Green asked each student in her class to create a poem that night. There were no rules.
Her students did not need to punctuate lines if they did not feel like it. These poems could be long or short. She told her class to make their poems about any idea that came to mind.

Leona is in Miss Green’s class. As she rode her bus home, she tried thinking of a subject for her poem. As she looked out the bus window, Leona spotted a billboard. It was an ad for the town’s museum. This museum has an annual music fest each year. On that billboard was a picture of a giant lion. That’s it! She’d write a poem that stars a lion.

When Leona was home, she went right to her desk and started writing her lion poem. Her poem was titled “Champion of the Jungle.” Leona handed in her poem to Miss Green the next day.

One morning three weeks later, Miss Green told her class that she had some news. “I submitted your poems to this area’s annual poetry contest,” Miss Green said. “And it turns out that Leona’s poem is this year’s winner!”

The class clapped for Leona! As the winner, her family got a free trip to the museum and a brand new video cam! Leona was glad she spotted that giant lion.