



EXPLORE 1

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

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ACTIVITY SUMMARY: Poetry

Explore language, meaning and expression in poetry, composing poems on a theme which can be published and shared in school or beyond.

INGREDIENTS:

A descriptive poem, or choose one of the themes explored on For example, students can take part in the current Gothic-themed writing challenge (closing date February 15 2015) inspired by the British Library exhibition, *Terror and Wonder: the Gothic Imagination*. Another recent challenge appropriate footage to support the description If possible, footage of the poet reading the poem

TIME:

40 minutes

METHOD:

1. Before listening to the poem, allow the students time to explore the chosen theme through first-hand experience, listening to music or watching footage.
2. The students write or record their initial responses to the theme as experienced through the music/film. Share these with the group and collect effective words and phrases on a board or big sheet of paper.
3. Watch the poet perform the poem or read it aloud to the group without showing them the text.
4. Ask the students to discuss what they think of the poem, what it reminds them of, if anything puzzles them.
5. Ask the students to choose favourite or effective words or phrases from the poem. Add to the collection in point 2.
6. Share the printed poem, ask the students to choose more words and add to the collection.
7. Finally, ask students to compose their own free verse poetry on the same theme.

OPTIONAL (SESSION 2-3, PERFORMANCE):

Ask students to research performance poetry styles on YouTube, choosing three performances that they think are effective. Share the best examples with the class. Students perform their poems to the class (or a wider audience within school) and record the performances as video or audio files, resources permitting, which can also be shared with the wider school community (as podcasts or on monitors in the school foyer, for example).

CURRICULUM AREAS:

English, ICT

ONLINE RESOURCES AND INSPIRATION:

- theyoungpoetsnetwork.org.uk is aimed at poets up to 25 and includes regular writing challenges in its Workshop section for which students can be encouraged to enter as individuals, or a class or group can work on entries together.
- movellas.com is where you'll find Project Remix, the competition launched by Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman to encourage writers aged 13 to 19 to create new works (comic strips, fiction, video and more) inspired by favourite writers including poets. The closing date is February 23 but the resources on the site can still be used in future months.

Based on activities and ideas created by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education