

# POETRY MATTERS

## SPOKEN WORD POETRY KEY STAGE 3 LESSON PLAN HELP SHEET

All the techniques on this sheet are ideal for spoken word poetry. When writing a spoken word poem the structure of the poem, the use of language and the subject matter are all equally important. We've selected several key techniques that will enhance a poem and ensure impact when performed. This help sheet explains the techniques and offers examples, it can be handed out to pupils or enlarged for the class to refer to.

### ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia is a word that sounds like what it's describing:

- The tin can clattered down the alley
- The russet-coloured leaves rustled in the autumnal winds.

### RHYMING COUPLETS

Rhyming couplets means that 2 successive lines rhyme. This is one of the oldest and most popular poetry techniques. Rhyming couplets create a natural rhythm and rhymes are easy to remember:

In the midnight-dark sky sat the white moon  
He won't be there long as morning comes soon.

### RHYTHM

Rhythm in poetry is like the beat in music. Repetition of words or lines creates rhythm as does meter. Meter is the use of stressed and unstressed syllables – sonnets use the technique iambic pentameter to create the 'tum ti tum' rhythm. Iambic refers to the beat (2 syllables) and pentameter refers to the line length (10 syllables).

"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date".  
(From Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare)

### RHYME

A rhyme is a repetition of similar sounds in two or more words. Rhyme can occur mid-sentence (internal rhyme) or at the end of a line. Example of an end of line rhyme:

In the midnight-dark sky sat the white moon  
He won't be there long as morning comes soon.

Internal rhyme is where a rhyme occurs in a single line of verse: Do you remember that party in December?

Rhyming couplets mean the same 2 successive lines must rhyme, but you can also use rhyme on alternate lines:

In the midnight-dark sky sat the white moon,  
Watching over us, he and the stars hand in hand,  
He won't be there long as morning comes soon,  
And he'll fade away as dawn breaks over the land.

### A LYRIC POEM

A lyric poem is a short poem that expresses personal feelings. Sonnets and odes are usually lyric poems, but modern poetry accepts the lyric in many forms. Themes such as love and regret are popular lyric poem themes.

### LIST POEMS

A list poem is an easy style to write and remember for spoken word performances. The style uses repetition and can rhyme. The key is to have a good theme for your list which is as open as possible, such as a shopping list or the contents of your teacher's bag!

### PERSPECTIVE (WRITING AS A CHARACTER)

Writing as someone else still means that you can have personal involvement in your poem. Writing a poem as a character can make it easier to express thoughts, feelings and emotions you may feel awkward or uncomfortable performing as 'you'. If you do choose to write as a character, you must choose someone you can relate to and can empathise with.