THE BIG GREEN WRITING MACHINE

USING POETRY TECHNIQUES
OPTIONAL LESSON ACTIVITY

PRE-LESSON PREP

- Download a copy planning sheet/entry form for each pupil
- If you prefer to go paperless, check out the Online Writing Portal via www.youngwriters.co.uk/teachers
- Download the PowerPoint presentation that complements this activity
- All resources are optional and can be accessed at www.youngwriters.co.uk/writing-resources

ACTIVITY

STEP 1 Get Ready To Write		Hand out The Big Green Writing Machine planning sheet/entry form. (If your school is paperless, you can do the planning on the whiteboards/workbooks and your pupils can type their work into the Online Writing Portal during the lesson.)
STEP 2 Sparking Interest… (1 min)	Slides 5-6	Get your pupils engaged by watching The Big Green Writing Machine video, which introduces them to this activity. Explain what a poem is.
STEP 3 Inspiration Station (4 mins)	Slide 7	If you have chosen the subject for your pupils to write about based on a topic you are teaching, tell them now. If not, ask them to take a few minutes to think about what they'll write about. Ask them to write it down on their planning sheet, in box 1. (Optional! Try one of the idea generation activities - download from our website.)
STEP 4 Activity Time (15 mins)	Slide 8	When your pupils have chosen their theme, ask them to draw a picture of their subject and/or write down words associated with it. This could be facts, likes, dislikes, hobbies, feelings etc. They can do this in the box provided on their planning sheet, or on a piece of paper/whiteboard. The idea is that they now have a mind map of things they can use in their poem. Now it's time to expand on their ideas to start to create some lines for their poem. Ask your pupils to write some sentences using the ideas in their mind map.
STEP 5 Adding Techniques (10 mins)	Slides 9-11	Once they have a few lines, it's time to try adding some poetic techniques. Ask pupils to use each technique on one of the lines they have written, one technique per line. They don't have to use all of them in their finished piece, but encourage them to try them all and then pick which ones they think work best in their poem.

STEP 5 Adding Techniques **(10 mins)**	Slides 9-11	**Personification** Personification is adding human traits to objects, animals or emotions. E.g. An ocean might say 'I have too much plastic in me' which can be changed to: Plastic swims through me, making me cry **Metaphor** 1. Describing something as something else. They should think of some words that describe a noun in one of their lines. E.g. from 'Rivers': 2. Long, cool, watery, clear Now think of other things that share those qualities E.g. Ribbon, ice, liquid, glass 3. Use these new items to describe the original noun. E.g. Ribbons of liquid glass flow into me **Alliteration** Using the same letter or sound at the beginning of words: E.g. from 'Fish swim in me': My waves are filled with flitting fish
STEP 6 Adding Imagery **(5 mins)**	Slide 12	Before pupils write more of their poem, ask them to think about the following: • Use their senses – what can they see, feel, smell, hear, taste? • Who or what is nearby? • How does this make them feel? • What descriptive words can they use? You can also show them examples.
STEP 7 Time To Write! **(15 mins)**	Slide 13	Your pupils should have plenty of ideas, now it's time to get writing! Ask them to consider what type of poem they will write. Pupils can use the worksheet or use the Online Writing Portal and type their work up during the lesson. Alternatively they can write up their poems as a homework activity.
STEP 8 Sharing Is Caring **(5 mins)**	Slide 14	Ask your pupils to work in pairs to read their poem to their partner. Their partner is to provide feedback; something they like about the poem and a suggestion on how it could be improved. Once feedback is received, allow pupils extra time to make any changes to their work.
STEP 9 Competition Time!		Post, email or upload your pupils' poems to us if you're not using the Online Writing Portal. Once the competition has closed at the end of term we'll write to you and email you with the results!