

Year 7 – Nature Poetry– English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

- This unit celebrates poetry and introduces Y7 to an enjoyable but challenging view of how language, structure and form is utilised. Students complete two reading assessments, both building on skills taught, including specific terminology outlined for the age group and the SMILE annotation technique for appropriate scaffolding. These skills build on KS2 understanding and challenge students to consider not just the identification, but the impact of the author's intentions. This poetry unit explores all manners of school values, most notably compassion, kindness, patience and grace.

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Onomatopoeia
- Theme
- Metaphor
- Simile
- Portmanteau

Key terminology taught:

- Structure
- Imagery
- Symbolism
- Effect
- Allegory
- Metaphor
- Juxtaposition
- Alliteration
- Implied meanings

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- One way to improve your understanding of poetry is by experiencing the work of great poets.
- Everyone has a favourite poem or poet. Share the poem with your student and explain what you love about it.
- Read a number of poetry anthologies. ie The Nations 100 Favourite Poems and Poems To Make Grown Men Cry.
- Think about what else the poem could mean.
- Which is the most important word or phrase. Why? What effect does it have? Could it be improved? How?
- Practise writing your own poems (using the models used in lessons, this will help you to understand the structure and vocabulary choices better)
- Practise editing - great poets do not become great poets from their first draft. They redraft their work constantly until it is just right.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- Which is the most powerful word? Why?
- What do you think the poet was feeling at this point in time.
- Is there any parts you don't like or don't understand? Discuss it with them.

Challenging activities to complete:

- What is your favourite animal/plant/season- Write a poem to explain why.
- Look in detail at one of the poems we have studied. Write your own based on the tone and structure they use.
- Pick one of the poems we have looked at. Change at least eight words to improve it. Why have you chosen these words? Read it out, does it have a better effect on the reader?

Suggested further reading:

The Nation's Favourite Poems – Griff Rhys Jones

A really great reference point for poetry. This compendium collects together poems that have influenced and touched the nation.

Poems That Make Grown Men Cry: 100 Men on the Words That Move Them – Anthony Holden.

This is a really thought-provoking book...The range of contributors leads to a wonderful range of verse. And the overall result is a wonderfully powerful and moving experience' --The Times