

Year 8 – Around The World In 20 poems – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

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

- This anthology of poetry features 20 poems from across the world, from very diverse poets. The unit encourages students to look further than their own country and culture and explores how we can travel with the written word.

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Alluring
- Inclement
- Fixation
- Imposing
- Perilous
- Dominance
- Resplendent
- Honour
- Hues
- Evocative
- Serene
- Ethereal

Key terminology taught:

- Symbolism
- Imagery
- Personification
- Stanza
- Tone
- Theme
- Metaphor and simile
- Juxtaposition
- Alliteration

If your child needs support

Poetry help:

- Read the Brian Bilston's humorous poems found every day on Twitter.
- Speak poetry out loud for understanding.
- Sign up to Poem of the Day from The Poetry Foundation

Summary skills:

- If your child struggles to summarise information, try to use extracts of either fiction or non-fiction and ask your child to reduce the information first into 50 words, 25 words, then into 10.
- Your child could also use a highlighter to find the 5 most important words on a page and then make sentences out of those five words for context and reflection.

Geographical help:

This unit teaches students about different places across the world; if your child finds maps and geography confusing then perhaps they could:

- Look at illustrated maps found in our library.
- Explore Google Earth on a PC.
- Play interactive games such as GeoGuesser where you are dropped into a place and have to explore to work out where you are.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- How is poetry similar to music?
- What can our country learn from other cultures?
- Does hardship make the best music?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Research what metre is in poetry and how poets use it to manipulate sound.
- Read poetry from specific places of the world by exploring www.PoetryAtlas.com
- Create your own poetry anthology with a theme of your choice. Perhaps 'forgotten voices' or 'growing up' as a suggestion.
- Listen to age appropriate rap music and make comparisons.

Suggested further reading:

- **Shakespeare's sonnets**
Patrick Stuart performed lots of Shakespeare's sonnets on Twitter in early 2020. Watch them for an experience of some of the best love poetry ever written.

- **Maya Angelou**

A multi award winning poet explores complex emotions and feelings of identity and belonging.

- **The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Fifteen year old Xiomara works through tension and conflict in her family by writing poetry.