

Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
4	English	Poetry

The Big Picture

During this latter part of Autumn 2, year 4 are will be focusing on Poetry.

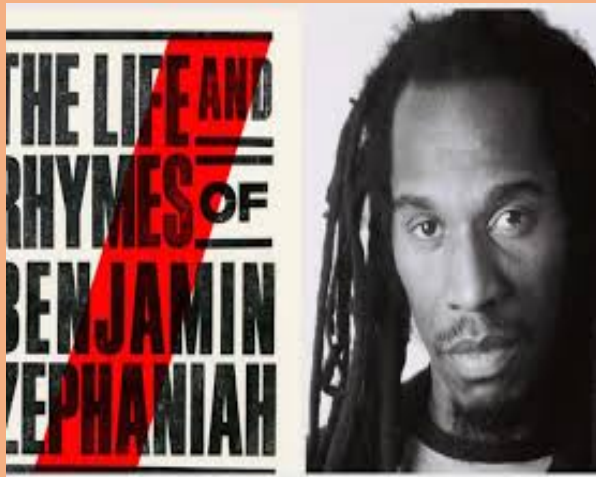
In our lessons, we plan to explore children's pre-conceived ideas and attitudes towards poetry. For pupils to develop an understanding of what constitutes poetry, as well as exploring the common elements found in poetry.

Poetry is a type of literature, or artistic writing that stirs a reader's imagination and emotions. The poet does this through language, sound and rhythm. Some poems, such as nursery rhymes are simple and humorous.

For this unit, and as well as looking at various other poems, the 2 main poets we will focus on are Benjamin Zephaniah (British) and Maya Angelou (American).

We want children to know that poetry is very important because it helps us understand and appreciate the world around us. Simply put, poetry allows us to paint sketches of our lives, using metaphors, imagery and symbolic language. Poetry will allow children put language to use to make it serve deeper meaning, to break rules along the way grammar, punctuation, capitalization – and to find voice where there would otherwise be silence.

Below are images of Benjamin Zephaniah and Maya Angelou



In this new unit, we hope to also spark your interest in poetry and have included an extract from Maya Angelou's poem 'Still I Rise' and we encourage you read the rest of the poem, as well as others with your child / children.

Still I Rise

BY MAYA ANGELOU

You may write me down in history
 With your bitter, twisted lies,
 You may trod me in the very dirt
 But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Enquiry Question

What is poetry?
What genre would poetry come under?
Why is poetry so important?
What can you learn from poetry?
Why does poetry exist?
What are the benefits of poetry?
What makes poetry good or bad?
Can poetry change your life?
What makes a poem successful?



**Painting is poetry
that is seen rather
than felt, and
poetry is painting
that is felt rather
than seen.**

Leonardo da Vinci

www.arthistorykids.com

Key Vocabulary	
Adjectives	Words used to describe a character or object.
Adverbs	Words used to describe an action.
Character	The people whom the story is about.
Edit	Make changes to your story in order to improve it.
Grammar	The way words can be used to structure a sentence correctly.
Main Clause	A clause that forms a complete sentence on its own.
Metaphor	A figure of speech that makes one object take the place of another that it is being compared to.
Mystery	A genre of writing that is exciting and full of suspense.
Personification	When an inanimate object is given human characteristics.
Prediction	Guessing the outcome of the story using evidence from the text.
Punctuation	Symbols used to make a sentence grammatically correct e.g full stops and commas.
Relative Clause	A specific type of subordinate clause that adapts, describes or modifies a noun.
Rhetorical Question	A question that doesn't require an answer but prompts the reader to think about the situation.
Setting	Where a story is based.

Key Skills	
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To figure out the meaning of the poem Poets using imagery to get their meaning across Looking for symbols Looking at the poet's choice of words Determine the voice / tone of the poem Determine if the poem has a structure / storyline
Correct Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical structure of the poem The length of the lines The rhythms, rhymes & repetition
Writing	Can use standard English as well as slang or informal language.
Inference	To be able to "read between the lines" of the text.
Reasoning	To be able to justify opinions about the story using evidence from the text.
Sentence Structure	To be able to use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. To be able to write using the correct tense.
Upleveling vocabulary	To be able to improve the words used to describe and explain in the story.

Similes	A figure of speech that compares one object with another.
Subordinate Clause	A clause that doesn't make sense on its own.
Suspense	A state of excitement or anxiety about what might happen.
Visual Literature	A book that uses pictures to tell a story.



Resources	
Thesaurus	A book of reference which provides alternative words.
Dictionary	A book of reference used to check spellings.
Word Mat	A glossary of words given to each child to help them with description or sentence structure.
Brainstorming	An activity led by the class teacher to collect ideas from the entire class.
Videos	A free resource for educators and parents / carers

*Poetry is a story
that is so good,
it doesn't need
complete sentences.*