

Year 7 Poetry – What does it mean to ‘belong’?

Purpose: to interpret and analyse a variety of poems based on the theme of ‘belonging’; to consider a poet’s use of various devices and techniques and the impact they have on the reader

What you need to do:

1. Perform or recite a poem from the collection.
2. Complete a quote explosion.
3. Provide an analysis of one of the poems in the collection by answering a series of questions



Questions to consider:

1. What does it mean to ‘belong’?
2. What are the different ways you (or objects) can belong?
3. Why is ‘belonging’ a theme that appears not only in poetry, but in other types of literature and media?

Poetic Devices

Alliteration	When words that are close together, start with the same sound
Metaphor	Describes something by saying it is something else
Simile	Compares two things using ‘like’ or ‘as’
Syllable	A single unit of sound within a word
Onomatopoeia	Words that like what they are (such as ‘bang’)
Emotive language	Language used to evoke a particular emotion in the reader
Imagery	Language that creates a picture in your mind by appealing to your senses
Structure	The order and arrangement of ideas in a poem
Tone	The mood or feeling suggested by the way the poet writes.
Stanza	A group of lines in a poem
Repetition	Words or ideas are repeated
Metre	Arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables to create a rhythm
Rhyme	Words that sound the same
Personification	Giving non-human things human characteristics

Questions to ask when analysing a poem:

1. What is the tone of the poem? (what is the main emotion you feel when reading it?)
2. What is the message in the poem? (what is the poet trying to say or comment on?)
3. What is the poet doing? (what devices and techniques are being used?)
4. What is the purpose of these techniques? (how does it impact you as the reader?)
5. What word(s) or line(s) are the most important? Why have you chosen them?
6. Does this poem relate to anything you have previously experienced? (or perhaps something someone close to you has experienced?)



Quote Explosion

What is happening in this quote?

What is the technique used?

What is the most important word? What part of speech is it? What does it show?

How does this make the reader feel about the speaker or theme?

Why has the poet chosen to show us this?

Resources:

1. Read a poem a day:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/poem-of-the-day>
2. BBC Bitesize – Understanding Poetry:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zmbj382>