

Y8 POETRY: WHERE WE ARE: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Key Words

Structure: the organisation of a poem's elements (stanza length, rhyme scheme and metre/rhythm)

Haiku: Three-line poem with 5,7,5, syllable structure

Sonnet: a form of love poetry which is **14 lines long** and usually follows the rhyme scheme **ABAB CDCD EFEF GG**. Each line usually contains **10 syllables**.

Acrostic poem: An acrostic poem, the first letter of each line spells a word. The word is the subject of the poem.

Free Verse: a poem that does not use consistent rhythm, rhyme, or pattern. It tends to follow the rhythm of natural speech.

Anthropomorphism: the attribution of human characteristics or behaviour to a god, animal, or object

Personification: attributing human characteristics to an object

Key Skills

- **Read and understand** poems about where we are and the world we live in
- **Write your own poem** and consider the impact you want it to have
- Develop **annotation** skills through identifying **terminology**
- Develop **analytical** writing skills
- Consider **effects** of text on reader and the poem's message

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| <p>Haikus A collection of seasonal Haikus Structure: 3 lines with 5,7,5 syllables per line – <i>short form poetry</i></p> | <p>Goldfinch – Robert McFarlane A tragic acrostic poem exploring loss of nature – a warning to the reader about the need to protect our natural world. Personification: <i>“goldfinches are gilding the land for free”</i> Light imagery: <i>‘gilding’ ‘gleam’ ‘glint’ ‘glitter’ ‘lustre’</i></p> |
| <p>Mushrooms – Sylvia Plath A personified poem about mushrooms Personification: <i>“Our toes, our noses”</i> <i>“shoulder through holes”</i> <i>“We shall by morning/inherit the earth. Our foot ‘s in the door”</i></p> | <p>Yoruba Hunting Poems – Translated Ulli Beier A collection of traditional Yoruba hunting poems which anthropomorphise animals – translated by Ulli Beier. Anthropomorphism: <i>Leopard: “Beautiful death/ who puts on a spotted robe/ when he goes to his victim” Buffalo: “He wears the thickest skin” Hyena: “Killer in the night”</i></p> |
| <p>The Snow Fairy – Claude McKay A sonnet written about snow. Sonnet form: 14 lines ABAB CDCD EFEF GG Personification: <i>“frail things had taken panic flight”</i> <i>“Worn out by the sharp struggle, fast asleep”</i></p> | <p>Letter to Someone Living 50 Years from Now – Matthew Olzmann A tragic poem imagining the world 50 years from now after climate change has destroyed a lot of the natural world <i>“Most likely, you think we hated the elephant”</i> <i>“And then all the bees were dead”</i></p> |
| <p>Trees – Philip Larkin The natural world changes season to season – a poem about resilience and life Structure: ABBA rhyme scheme, 4 line stanzas <i>“Last year is dead, they seem to say, Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.”</i> The Lost Words –</p> | <p>Hyena – Edwin Morgan Written from the perspective of a hyena, this poem explores some of the negative stereotypes associated with them. Anthropomorphism: <i>“I trot, I lope, I slaver, I am a ranger./ I hunch my shoulders. I eat the dead.”</i> <i>“I have a crowd of fangs, and I use them.”</i></p> |
| <p>The Lost Words – Kingfisher – Robert McFarlane An acrostic poem exploring a natural word removed from the junior dictionary. Acrostic poem: spelling out the word taken from the dictionary Adjectives: <i>“Ink-black bill, orange throat, and a quick blue back-gleaming feather-stream”</i> <i>“Rainbow bird - that sets the stream alight with burn and glitter!”</i></p> | <p>More than Enough – Marge Piercy A poem about season change of spring to summer Structure: regular stanza structure of 5 lines Personification: <i>“first lily of June opens its red mouth”</i> <i>“grass lifting its wheaty seedheads into the wind”</i></p> |