

National Poetry Day



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-national-poetry-day/z9dt7yc>

Play your chosen sounds from the **BBC Sound Effects library**. See Related links, or try these examples: **seawash** / **birdsong** / **city**

2. Your introduction to the video

Fade down the audio clip and ask pupils to suggest things the sound makes them think of - eg seawash might suggest 'a crowd of muttering ghosts.' Take several suggestions from the pupils and write them up into a simple six-line poem, following this model:

*The waves of the sea
Are muttering ghosts
The waves of the sea
Are leaves rustling in a forest
The waves of the sea
Are the snores of sleeping giants*

Tell the pupils that today's assembly is about poetry and where poets get their ideas. If the assembly is scheduled around National Poetry Day you could read out the summary paragraph beginning, '*National Poetry Day, founded in 1994...*' Introduce the video with 'In this video clip two children go poem-hunting.'

3. Play the video

Play the video. The duration is 4' 20" and the final words are: '... so many different places you can look for poetry.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Display the **image of the boy writing** (see Key links). Tell the assembly: '*Some poems rhyme, some don't, some are happy and some are sad, but all poems have something in common. They make word music.*'

Ask: '*Why do we write poems?*' [Gather the pupils' responses]

Tell everyone: '*We can't go to the zoo today like Lyra and Volkan, but we can go poem-hunting, right here.*'

Select an audio clip from the BBC library (see Related links)

Ask: '*What do the sounds remind you of? How could you use words to keep the memory of those sounds alive? Or make people think of them in a new way?*'

Play video



6. Time to sing

An opportunity for you to sing your chosen song.

7. Opportunity to reflect

'Our world is full of excitement and interest. When we write poems, we respond to the world creatively. Poems help us notice what matters in life and the truth of the world around us. How will you respond creatively today? How will you share your own special view of the world?'

8. Opportunity for prayer

('Dear God', 'Lord Jesus', etc) and:

'We thank you for the gift of poetry and for our own imaginations. Help us use our creative gifts to explore our own hearts and minds and share our own special view of the wonderful world around us. Amen.'