

Reading out poetry



In the BBC drama *Secrets and Words*, JJ reads the poem 'Ferry me across the water' to his family

'Ferry me across the water' by Christina Rossetti

Ferry me across the water,
Do, boatman, do.
If you've a penny in your purse
I'll ferry you.

I have a penny in my purse,
And my eyes are blue;
So ferry me across the water,
Do, boatman, do.

Step into my ferry-boat,
Be they black or blue,
And for the penny in your purse
I'll ferry you.

1. Listen to someone read the poem. Do you like the poem? If so, why? If not, why not? Discuss with a partner.
2. Read the poem. Underline any difficult words. Find out what they are.
3. Choose one or two lines of the poem. Practise reading them aloud.
4. When you're ready, try reading the poem as a group, with each person reading one line at a time.