

Choosing the right words



Mrs. Johnson her name was. And she goes round the class, pointing at kids to read - a poem at a time. I was eight. And when it gets to me, it's some old crappy one about a ferry or a ferryman or something, and... I couldn't do it obviously, but rather than just going on to the next kid, she makes me walk to the front.

In the BBC One drama *Secrets and words*, JJ overcomes bad memories of being made to read aloud in class as a child.

All writers use language carefully to get their message across. They choose the right words to create a particular mood or feeling.

1: Read JJ's speech and discuss these questions with a partner:

- Which two phrases let us know that Mrs Johnson was an unpleasant teacher?
- How does JJ describe the poem and how does this show his feelings towards it?

2: Work with a partner to re-write JJ's speech as a fond memory of a kind teacher that boosted his confidence. Begin by discussing which words or phrases you will need to change.