

Performance Poetry

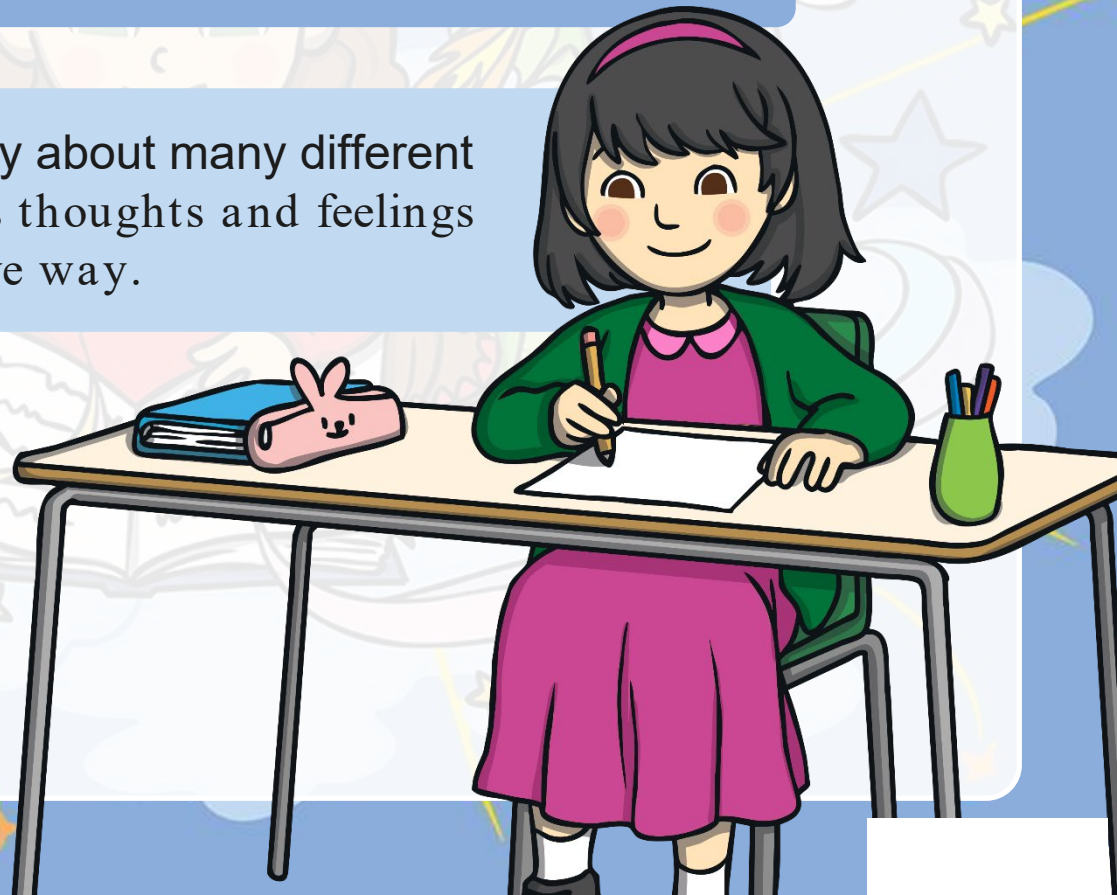


What is Poetry?

Poetry is a style of reading and writing.

It is imaginative writing, written by anybody.

People choose to write poetry about many different things. It is a way to express thoughts and feelings about something in a creative way.



What is Poetry?

Poetry tries to connect with the reader so they understand the writer's thoughts and feelings.

Poems can be written in many different ways - they can be short or long, sad or fun, real or imagined, structured and unstructured, rhyming or not.

The writer has the freedom to write in any way they feel will best express their thoughts and feelings.



What is Performance Poetry?

Performance Poetry brings the poetry words to life through actions.

Poetry can be performed anywhere. Can you think of any places?



a bedroom



a playground



a stage



a garden

How Can You Perform Poetry?

When performing poetry, the reader will play with the words. It's fun to experiment with the different words and make the poem come to life:

You may read some words **loudly** in a booming voice.

You could read some words **quietly**, whispering softly.

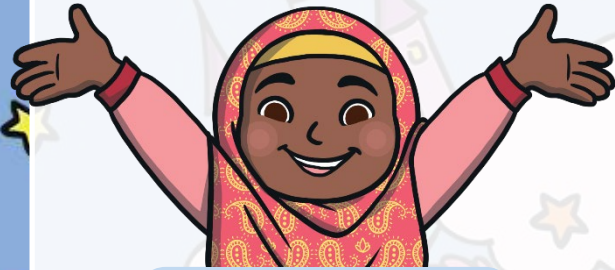
You may read a poem **quickly**, racing through the words.

You could read the poem **slowly**, taking your time with every word.

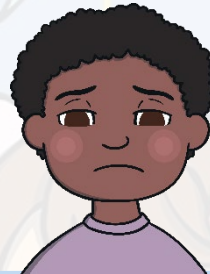
What about mixing it up? The poet might perform using all of these styles.



The Tone of the Poem



Is it a happy poem?



Is it a sad poem?



Is it an angry poem?



Is it a confusing poem?



Is it a tense poem?



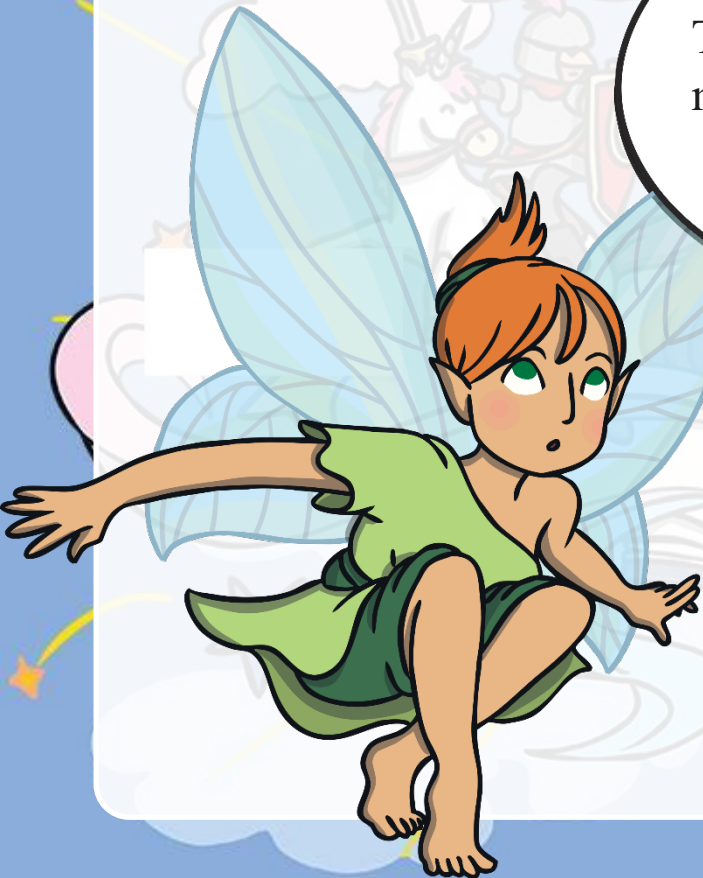
Is it an exciting poem?

When the emotion of the poem has been chosen, it will make the poem easier to be understood. **It's important that the tone of the poem is clear.**

Characters in the Poem

Some poems are read as a character. How would that character sound using your voice?

The character might be a monster - how would the monster sound?



Actions

You can even use your body to perform poems:

standing - you could be in a huge park,
in space or in a tight space;

sitting - you could be sat on a very tall chair, on a
dinosaur or on a rollercoaster;

laying down - you could be looking up at
the stars or clouds in the sky.



Actions

Using your body to tell the poem helps the listener to see the world you are creating in your poem.

Just using simple actions, such as whisking a huge cake mix, is exciting to see when you're reading a poem about how you made the biggest cake in the world.



Actions

Actions can be as simple as small gestures. This could be pointing to objects, gentle flicks of the wrist or miming with your hands.

Imagine acting out some of these actions as part of your Poetry Performance.

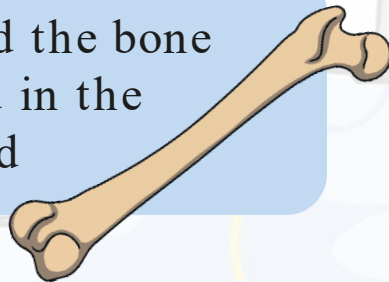


Leapt over the
huge rock



Licked the thick
chocolate off the
spoon

Sniffed the bone
buried in the
ground



Crept past the
hungry wolf

Performance Poetry

Watch this poem by Joseph Coelho and see if you can recognise any of the features you have learnt.



THERE ARE THINGS THAT LURK
IN THE LIBRARY
BY JOSEPH COELHO

click here

Performance Poetry

Watch this poem by Benjamin Zephaniah and see if you can recognise any of the features you have learnt.



