

Why I Play Overview

Welcome to Why I Play, a two week literacy project in which children study and write their own poems based on the idea of 'Play', working with Michael Rosen. Over the 10 lessons, pupils will explore two styles of poetry and use their individually-written poems to produce a collaborative, filmed final poem. The final output is a recorded poetry performance video which can be shared with the school in a [LitFilmFest assembly](#). To see what your final video might look like, watch this [example video](#).

There are also options to organise a Poetry Slam competition and produce illustrations and poems written up for a display.

The project includes opportunities for:

- Exploring different poetry styles
- Discussing the different physical and mental effects of play
- Building your pupils' oracy skills through performing their own poetry

	Lesson	Content summary	Literacy aims
1	Introduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch project introduction video 2. Share and respond to project poems 3. Reflect and analyse the experience of physical and imaginative play 	Read and enjoy Initial reactions to 'play' and poems Analyse features and ask questions
2	Free Verse Poetry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share and read a free verse poem 2. Identify poetic devices 3. Draft short collaborative poems in free verse 	Analyse free verse Poetic devices: repetition for effect, words to create mood, rhythm and varying sentence length, onomatopoeia
3	Rhyming Poetry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share and read a rhyming poem 2. Identify poetic devices 3. Draft short collaborative poems in rhyme 	Analyse rhyming poem Poetic devices: metaphor alliteration description and use of synonym
4	Plan and draft poetry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate on an opening to a shared class poem about play. 2. Plan and explore ideas for individual poems based on either rhyme or free verse. 	Shared and independent writing, using poetic devices, planning and drafting
5	Edit, write and practise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use poetic devices to write their own poem 2. Groups choose lines to be used in a final collaborative class poem 	Editing, writing individual poems, performance technique
6	Collaborative performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse how poems are performed successfully 2. Rehearse, give feedback 3. Perform and record poetry performances 	Group work on oral performance and rehearsal
7	Filming to support a poetry performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch How to Film video 2. Group planning of shots 	Planning, filming and photographing related to a

		3. Writing an 'author's note' to explain their poem whilst groups film/photograph shots they need	poem. Analyse a poem and explain its meaning
8	Further exploration; poems and performance (optional)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to a poem being performed 2. Select a poem to rehearse (UKS2 memorising short sections if possible) adding percussion and sound effects 3. Perform a variety of poem types and compare 	preparing poems to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
9	Further challenge (optional)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-cover different poetry types 2. Independent writing of own poems on a play topic of their choice. 	Shared planning, independent writing, using poetic devices, drafting, writing and peer editing.
10	Poetry Slam! (optional)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use poetic devices to write their own poem 2. Groups choose lines to be used in a final collaborative class poem 	preparing poems to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action

To see what your final video might look like, watch this [example video](#). It will be a recording of the class collaborative poem, illustrated with filmed or photographed examples linking to the lines in the poem.

Filming and Editing Preparation

- Ensure there is enough free memory space on iPads and that they are fully charged.
- This project could be completed on a video editing app such as [Adobe Spark Video](#).
- At the end of the project, the films could be shared with other children in school at a LitFilmFest Assembly.
- Also, visit litfilmfest.com to find out how to enter finished projects for the chance to win a YouTube Kids filming day at your school where your video ends up on Michael Rosen's YouTube channel!