





Progression in Poetry

This document sets out the relevant objectives from the national curriculum for each year group for reading and understanding poetry. Where appropriate they have been adapted (noted in brackets). Suggested writing outcomes are outlined in our poetry spine, in addition to poems to read, share and perform.

YEAR 1

Listen, discuss, respond	Understanding
 ✓ Listen and discuss a wide range of poems ✓ link to own experiences ✓ Join in with predictable phrases ✓ Appreciate rhymes and poems and recite some by heart ✓ Discuss word meanings ✓ Discuss significance of title and events ✓ Participate in discussions 	 ✓ Draw on background knowledge and vocabulary provided ✓ Check text makes sense, correcting inaccurate reading ✓ Infer and predict on the basis of what is said and done and has been ready so far ✓ Explain understanding







YEAR 2

Listen, discuss, respond	Understanding
 ✓ Listen to, discuss and express views about a wide range of contemporary and classic poetry ✓ Recognise simple recurring literary language in poetry ✓ Discuss and clarifying the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary ✓ Discuss their favourite words and phrases ✓ Continue to build up a repertoire of poems learnt by heart, appreciating these and reciting some, with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear ✓ Participate in discussion about books, poems and other works that are read to them and those that they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say 	 ✓ Draw on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher ✓ Check that the text makes sense to them as they read and correct inaccurate reading ✓ Make inferences on the basis of what is being said and done - Answer and ask questions ✓ Explain and discuss their understanding of books, poems and other material, both those that they listen to and those that they read for themselves.







YEAR 3/4

Listen, discuss, respond	Understanding
 ✓ Listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, poetry ✓ Read books (poems) that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes ✓ Identify themes and conventions in a wide range of books (poems) ✓ Prepare poems to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action - Discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination ✓ Recognise some different forms of poetry (for example, free verse, narrative poetry) ✓ Participate in discussion about both books (poems) that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say. 	 ✓ Check that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and explaining the meaning of words in context ✓ Ask questions to improve their understanding of a text ✓ Draw inferences and justifying inferences with evidence ✓ Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph (verse) and summarising these ✓ Identify how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning







YEAR 5/6

Listen, discuss, respond	Understanding
 ✓ Continue to read and discuss an increasingly wide range of poetry ✓ Read books (poems) that are structured in different ways and for a range of purposes ✓ Increase familiarity with a wide range of books, (poems) from our literary heritage, and books (poems) from other cultures and traditions ✓ Recommend books (poems) that they have read to their peers, giving reasons for their choices ✓ Identify and discuss themes and conventions in and across a wide range of writing (poetry) ✓ Make comparisons within and across books (poems) - Learn a wider range of poetry by heart ✓ Prepare poems to read aloud/perform, showing understanding through intonation/tone/volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience 	 ✓ Check that the book (poem) makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context ✓ Ask questions to improve understanding ✓ Draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence ✓ Summarise the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas ✓ Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning ✓ Discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader







✓ Participate in discussions about books (poems) that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously

- ✓ Explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary
 - ✓ Provide reasoned justifications for views







Poetic forms and devices		
Alliteration	This is when words that start with the same sound are used repeatedly in a phrase or sentence	
Assonance	This is the repetition of a vowel sound within nearby words	
Blackout poem	This is when a poet takes a piece of text and crosses out much of the original text. The words left form a new	
- " .	poem.	
Ballad	A poem or song that narrates a story in short stanzas. It may use rhythm and rhyme	
Calligram	This is a word, phrase or poem that is presented in a visual way. This may be by the shape of the letters, some	
	words or the whole poem which links to the meaning/theme of the words/poems.	
Cinquain	A cinquain has a 5 line structure. It follows the pattern:	
	Line 1: 2 syllables	
	Line 2: 4 syllables	
	Line 3: 6 syllables	
	Line 4: 8 syllables	
	Line 5: 2 syllables	
Comic Verse	There are no fixed rules for rhyme and rhythm. Comic verse often involves a play on words and focuses on	
	amusing the reader	
Concrete poem	A poem that is written in the shape of the words on the page match the subject of the poem	
Conversation poems	A poem that creates the appearance of a conversation that has been inserted into the structure of a poem.	
Couplet	Two lines of a poem that have the same rhythm and rhyme	
Free verse	Free verse poems do not follow particular forms and are without rhythm and rhyme. Some examples could be	
	monologue, list poems, narrative	
Haiku	This is a Japanese poem with the intention of evoking images. It follows the structure	
	Line 1: 5 syllables	
	Line 2: 7 syllables	
	Line 3: 5 syllables	
Kennings	A kenning describes the qualities of something using two-word phrases in the place of a noun. Kenning poems	
	uses two-word phrases on each line and may include metaphors	
Limerick	A five line comic verse where the 1st, 2nd and 5th line rhyme with each other and the 3rd and 4th line rhyme with	
	each other	
List poem	A list poem often has a list of words, phrases or sentences on a subject. They often have a starter word or	
	sentence. E.g. For breakfast I will eat Things that Words and phrases are often repeated. It may or may not	
	rhyme.	
Metaphor	This is when something is described as being the same as an unrelated object. They are often used to create	
	effects and images.	
Narrative	A narrative poem tells a story. It may be free verse or involve rhythm and rhyme.	







Onomatopoeia	This is a word that describes it sound
Personification	This is when objects, animals and plants are given human qualities to help paint a picture in the reader's mind
Quatrain	A stanza with four lines where usually alternate lines rhyme
Question and answer	This is structured as a dialogue between two people and often follows the structure of a question followed by an
	answer.
Rap	This is a musical vocal delivery involve rhythm and rhyme
Riddle	This is generally presented as a puzzle to be solved. They may often have clues to a unknown object or person.
Simile	When something is compared to another thing using 'as' or 'like' to paint a picture in reader's mind
Structured grammar poem	A poem that follows a specific grammar structure. Children can then use this structure to create their own
	poem
Tongue twister	Short poems or lines that are hard to say because they use a lot of similar sounds