**De Aston**

**English Department**

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**Year 7: Poetry Please**

**Challenge Tasks**

**Name:**

**Week One:**

This week, you will have been thinking about why people write poetry and how poetry can be found all around us if we look for it. Spend some time at home looking for poetry. Choose one of the tasks below. You can work individually or in small groups.

* Choose a newspaper article and cut out words and phrases. Rearrange them to make a poem. Stick the words on the page or write it out yourself.
* Create a textbook page defining key poetry terminology.
* Find a poem you find moving – learn some of it off by heart. Be ready to share with the class.

**Week Four-Six:** Now it’s time for some project work. This project will take you two weeks to complete.

In groups or on your own, choose a task below.

* Produce an anthology of poems for Y7 students to read and enjoy. Think about presentation. Your anthology will need a little introduction explaining why you think people should read the poems you have chosen.
* Produce a collection of four of your own poems.
* Visit the Poetry By Heart website <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/> . Learn a poem off by heart that was written before 1914. Perform it to the class.

**Week Three:**

There is a good chance you will have come across Michael Rosen’s poetry before. Visit his website at [www.michaelrosen.co.uk](http://www.michaelrosen.co.uk) Take a look around the website.

**Hard** – Use his website to read some of his poems. Which one do you like best? Learn it off by heart!

**Harder** – Use his website to read all of his poems. Then go to ‘Links’ and scroll to the bottom to see him performing some of his poems. Either learn one of his poems off by heart or write one of your own in the same sort of style.

**Hardest** – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07ffxtj> Listen to Michael Rosen talking about the diaries he wrote as a teenager. If you google – ‘Michael Rosen Teenage Diaries’ you will find it. What did you learn about him?

**Week Two:**

Choose something that has already happened to you in your life, or has happened this week, or that you hope will happen in the future. Write a short ballad about it.

**Hard** – Make sure you have the right number of lines in each verse. Try to write three verses.

**Harder** – Make sure you have the right number of lines and a simple rhyme scheme. Try to write four verses.

**Hardest** – Make sure you have the right number of lines and a simple rhyme scheme. Try to write five verses.

**Additional challenge tasks:**

Make sure you understand what each of these words means and show your understanding by trying to use them in your classwork. Then learn how to spell them – be ready for a spelling test in the last week of term.

**Hard:** 1. Imagery 2. Simile 3. Rhyme 4. Haiku 5. Ballad

**Harder:** 1. Personification 2. Metaphor 3. Rhythm 4. Sonnet 5. Stanza

**Hardest:** 1. Explicit 2. Sublime 3. Projection 4. Alienated 5. Meticulous

**Final challenge:**

Finally, explore the ‘BBC Desert Island Discs’ website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/features/desert-island-discs/find-a-castaway?occupation_group=writing>

Find a poet such as John Agard, Imtiaz Dharker, Liz Lochead, Lemn Sissay or Gillian Clarke. Listen to the songs they choose to take with them on a desert island. Which ones would you choose?

**Bonus week:**

Read the poem below and complete the ‘all’ question and one more of the questions below:

**All:** List four things you learn about the lone dog.

**Hard:** Why does the poet use repetition in the poem? What effect does it create?

**Harder:** Which is your favourite image in the poem? Explain why.

**Hardest:** A student once said that they didn’t believe the lone dog really means what he says. Is there any evidence to support this view?

I’m a lean dog, a keen dog, a wild dog and lone,  
I’m a rough dog, a tough dog, hunting on my own!  
I’m a bad dog, a mad dog, teasing silly sheep;  
I love to sit and bay the moon and keep fat souls from sleep.

I’ll never be a lap dog, licking dirty feet,  
A sleek dog, a meek dog, cringing for my meat.  
Not for me the fireside, the well-filled plate,  
But shut door and sharp stone and cuff and kick and hate.

Not for me the other dogs, running by my side,  
Some have run a short while, but none of them would bide.  
O mine is still the lone trail, the hard trail, the best,  
Wide wind and wild stars and the hunger of the quest.

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For more resources, including literacy support, visit www.deastonenglish.com