

POCKET POEM – about a lesson long

PHASE ONE:

- Out of your pocket, produce one thing. Hold it. Close your eyes, bring it into your mind.

- ✓ Write ONE LINE about the COLOUR of your object. As long or as short as you want.

Don't worry about your language so much yet – room later for tinkering...

- ✓ Write ONE LINE about the object's SMELL.
- ✓ Hold the object in your hand. Write about its WEIGHT.

Try to be fresh in your images – new ways to say the same old thing...

- ✓ What is your object's STAR SIGN and WHY?
- ✓ What is the object's TASTE – in the back of IT'S mouth.
- ✓ What are THREE things your object ISN'T.
- ✓ What does your object DREAM OF?
- ✓ Where is your object's HEART?
- ✓ What does your object MEAN?

- Get students to put their ideas on paper.

This type of poem is built up from random ideas. Helps to show that poems can sometimes just grow, aren't planned meticulously...

PHASE TWO:

- Make your lines into ONE PARAGRAPH: one capital letter, one full stop. Use as many commas, semi colons, hyphens as you wish.
- Change words, phrases. Ditch crap bits...
- Transform the writing from something ABOUT an object into something BY the object – a MONOLOGUE with 'I'...

This is a great piece of creative writing, always full of images. Often the object turns into a character, speaks about the writer.