

Lesson ONE

POETRY ANTHOLOGY TASK

The broad purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the idea that poetry is:

- A. One of the oldest forms of literature still in use today
- B. Explores and expresses many different and varied ideas in many different and varied ways
- C. Sometimes easily accessible, sometimes not so...

Essentially:

- Pass out a laminated poem to either individuals or pairs, depending on the make-up/nature of your class. Be a little bit discerning about this task – aim to roughly match aptitude with poems where possible.
- Ask your students to read their poem to themselves (in pairs ask them to read it out loud to their partner).
- In their books ask your students to note down the following as best they can:
 - *What is this poem about? (literal)*
 - *What is it really about? (metaphorical)*
 - *Are there any techniques used that you recognise?*
 - *What can you say about the form of the poem (shape and layout)?*
 - *Poems have NEON WORDS/LINES – ones that have a particular relevance in the poem. Can you identify any?*
 - *Who is speaking in the poem?*
 - *Why is it a poem, and not a piece of prose?*
 - *What questions do you have for the author?*
 - *Get a student to write their own version of the poem. But first go through above questions to see if they know what it is...*
- Ask for feedback from 4-5 people/pairs. Read their poems and then report back what they found...

A decent intro into looking at poems and the sheer depth & breadth of poetry around. Aim to repeat this exercise at the very end of this unit to see whether any development has occurred in the way your students approach a poem.