

Teacher / Adult's Side (1)

KS2 English - Porosity Story

# Liverpool Biennial

The Learner will read a story based on one of the themes of Liverpool Biennial 2021, discover new words and create illustrations to demonstrate their understanding of what they have read.

Estimated time = 40 mins

## Curriculum Extract:

### Pupils should be taught to:

- Develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read, by:
  - Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
  - Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
  - Using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read
- Understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
  - Checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding, and explaining the meaning of words in context
  - Asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction

## Key Terms:

- **Theme** - A theme is an underlying message or big idea of a story.
- **Porosity** - Full of tiny holes that water or air can get through. For example, our skin is *porous* and can soak up liquids.
- **Root word** - A root word is a basic word with no prefix or suffix added to it, for example, happy (which could become unhappy with a prefix, and happier with a suffix).
- **Glossary** - An alphabetical list of words relating to a specific subject, with explanations; a brief dictionary.
- **Illustrate** - To show something by using images, for example, to draw pictures to go with a piece of text, showing what it is about.

Children / Learner's Side (2)

KS2 English - Porosity Story

**Material List:**

- Pencil
- Pen
- Highlighter

# Liverpool Biennial

## LB21 Project:

Liverpool Biennial 2021, The Stomach and The Port is centred around 3 themes: 'The Stomach', 'Kinship' and 'Porosity'.

Porosity is defined as being full of tiny holes that water or air can get through. For example, our skin is *porous* and can soak up liquids. The word 'pore' is related to port and porosity, which all share an Ancient Greek root word, *póros*, which stands for 'passage', but also for 'journey'.

## Activity Instructions:

### Part 1

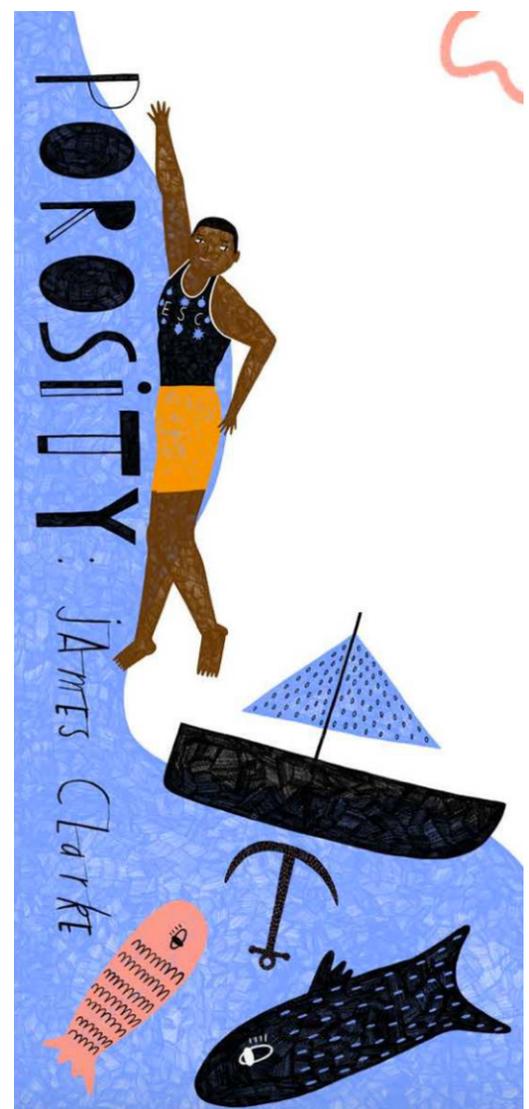
1. Read the story (on pages 3 and 4), which is based on the true story of James Clarke.
2. Highlight any new words that you come across and either find them in our 'glossary' (on page 5) or discuss with a grown up about what the words mean.

### Part 2

Now that you have read the story and thought about the life of James Clarke, draw your own pictures to go with the text. Use your drawings to help you demonstrate your understanding of the story. Read the questions below to help you think about which pictures you think would illustrate the story best.

- What are the most important parts of the story?
- Who are the most important characters?
- Where is the story set?
- Is there a message within this story?

Look at the drawings that illustrator Gabriella Hernandez has created for the story (the image to the right). You can use this image to help you draw your own.



'Porosity: James Clarke' by Natalie Denny

Porosity.

A word for the space between skin where liquid or air may pass.

A word that links our pores and our port.

A word that makes contact and connection.

A word that tells a story.

A 14-year-old boy on a voyage across the sea.

From Guyana, 'Land of Many Waters', of luscious rainforests and dusty savannah plateaus.

Home of the Harpy eagle and jaguar, solitary and secret like our hero.

James Clarke swam out from his land wearing the ocean as a second skin.

He sailed away from his home for a different kind of kin.

He found a new Irish family, and a friend in these a of blue.

A family that you choose who will also choose you.

Water a constant, Atlantic salt stains cracked lips; a stowaway.

The water in his blood sings.

Yet, day embraced him, grey as an English winter.

Raindrops the size of acorns falling from the sky.

All of it, the water in, and around him.

A piece of home away from home.

Standing at the docklands, the portal to many worlds.

You must understand that the Mersey is both lullaby and warning.

James knew this.

Hands hard and calloused, worn from heavy dock work.

Strong and seaworthy.

They respected the power of water in all its moods.

'Don't dip in if you can't see Jim!'



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Little ones play in the wet stuff. Frolicking freely.  
They see fun and laughter.  
Not how the sea can change so quickly.  
The danger that lies beneath.  
How water can go from friend to foe in a blink of their little eyes.  
So he was there to teach them.  
Him and his shadow.

We all need help sometimes.  
To touch and connect.  
A pat on the back, a high five, a hug.  
We can all feel like we are drowning; the whirlpools in our heads have  
some of the strongest currents.  
The sea and our emotions are mighty. So big we cannot see the end.  
A helping hand serves us all.  
On shining sea and dryer land dryer land.

There are 8 medals in Liverpool Museum.  
Each one awarded for a life saved.  
James taught the gift of walking on water. Of swimming like a fish-for  
neighbours or strangers.  
A merman of his time.

A street stands.  
The first ever named after a Black man in our city.  
He left his birthplace of trees and green, and made a new home in our  
hearts and memories.

Want to showcase your brilliant work? Email your creations to [learning@biennial.com](mailto:learning@biennial.com) for  
the chance for your writing to be displayed on our website or tag us on social media using  
the hashtag #LB2021. We can't wait to see your submissions!

## Glossary

**Porosity** - Full of tiny holes that water or air can get through. For example, our skin is *porous* and can soak up liquids.

**Pores** - A tiny opening in the skin of an animal or outer surface of a plant through which air, water, or sweat may pass.

**Port** - A town or city with a harbour where ships load or unload goods or cargo.

**Connection** - The act of linking together.

**Voyage** - A journey especially by water to a distant or unknown place.

**Luscious** - A very green and attractive landscape.

**Savannah** - Savannahs are flat grasslands with scattered trees and shrubs. They're usually found near to the equator (the halfway point between the north and south parts of the Earth).

**Plateau** - A plateau is a flat, elevated landform that rises sharply above the surrounding area on at least one side.

**Solitary** - Being, traveling, or living without others.

**Kin** - A person's relatives or family.

**Constant** - Remaining steady and unchanged.

**Stowaway** - A person who hides on a vehicle (such as a ship) to travel without being found or seen.

**Embrace** - To hold closely in one's arms or to accept easily.

**Calloused** - Having hard and thick skin

**Frolicking** - To act in a playful way.

**Foe** - An enemy or opponent.

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Please use the box below to sketch, paint or collage your ideas to illustrate the story of 'Porosity' and James Clarke. Use can use any media that you feel is suitable for the story! You may even want to use this space to draft your ideas and then use different materials (card, canvas, cardboard) to draw your final ideas on.

