

Teacher / Adult's Side (1)

Liverpool Biennial

KS2 English - You're a Poet!

The learner will create their own poem inspired by the outdoor artworks of Liverpool Biennial 2021.

Estimated time = 1 hour

Curriculum Extract:

Pupils should be taught to:

- plan their writing by:
 - discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
 - discussing and recording ideas
 - noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary
- draft and write by:
 - composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary
- evaluate and edit by:
 - proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences
 - proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors

Key Terms:

- **Syllable** - A syllable is a single sound within a spoken word. For example, poetry has 3 syllables - po-et-ry. You can find the syllables of a word by clapping each time you hear a new sound.
- **Haiku** - A traditional form of Japanese poetry consisting of 3 lines with a 5-7-5 syllable formation.
- **Acrostic Poem** - A poem where the first letter of each line makes up a total word.
- **Concrete Poem** - A poem that is written out in the shape of the thing the poem is about.

Children / Learner's Side (2)

KS2 English - You're a Poet!

Material List:

- Pencil
- Pen

Liverpool Biennial

LB21 Project:

The 11th edition of Liverpool Biennial has now opened its first 'outside' chapter of The Stomach and the Port, which includes a series of outdoor artworks by the following 6 artists. Visit the webpages below to explore their artworks and learn more about the artists and their practices.

Artists:

Rashid Johnson: www.liverpoolbiennial2021.com/visit/public-work/rashid-johnson-stacked-heads/

Linder: www.liverpoolbiennial2021.com/visit/public-work/linder-bower-of-bliss/

Larry Achiampong: www.liverpoolbiennial2021.com/visit/public-work/larry-achiampong-pan-african-flags-for-the-relic-travellers-alliance/

Jorgge Menna Barreto: www.liverpoolbiennial2021.com/visit/public-work/jorgge-menna-barreto/

Teresa Solar: www.liverpoolbiennial2021.com/visit/public-work/teresa-solar-osteoclast/

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané: <https://liverpoolbiennial2021.com/artists/daniel-steegmann-mangrane/>

Activity Instructions:

Explore the outdoor artworks of Liverpool Biennial and create your own poems inspired by the artworks. There are lots of different starting points you could use to create your own poem.

- You could choose your favourite artwork
- Your least favourite artwork
- The location of the artwork
- The people you see around the artwork
- How the artwork makes you feel

Or choose your own starting point!

Below you can find 3 different styles of poems. Choose one style of poem and create your own using the specific rules to help you.

Read through the rules of the styles of poems and have a go at creating your own.

Haiku

A haiku is a type of traditional short form poetry from Japan. It follows strict rules.

Haikus have 3 lines of poetry, which usually do not rhyme. Each line has a certain number of syllables.

The 1st line of the poem has 5 syllables.
The 2nd line of the poem has 7 syllables.
The 3rd line of the poem also has 5 syllables.

Haikus often focus on nature as a theme – which of Liverpool Biennial's outdoor artworks focus on nature as a theme? Perhaps you could use these artworks to inspire your poem.

A haiku uses just a few words to capture a moment and create a picture in the reader's mind. Can you capture how the artworks make you feel in just 3 lines of poetry?

Here are three examples of haiku poems from Matsuo Basho (1644-1694), considered the greatest haiku poet, to get you thinking:

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.

Autumn moonlight – a
Worm digs silently
into the chestnut.

In the twilight rain
these brilliant-hued hibiscus -
A lovely sunset.

Can you clap along with the syllables in each poem above?



'La Pensée Férale' by Daniel Steegmann Mangrané (2021)



'Stacked Heads' by Rashid Johnson (2021)

Acrostic Poems

You may have already encountered acrostic poems at school. Within these poems, the first letter of each line is the letter within a word. Here is an example of an acrostic poem by one of America's most famous poets:

'An Acrostic' by Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

Elizabeth it is in vain you say
"Love not" — thou sayest it in so sweet a way:
In vain those words from thee or L.E.L.
Zantippe's talents had enforced so well:
Ah! if that language from thy heart arise,
Breathe it less gently forth — and veil thine eyes.
Endymion, recollect, when Luna tried
To cure his love — was cured of all beside —
His follie — pride — and passion — for he died.

Can you figure out the word that the first letters spell out?

Here are some steps that you may wish to take to create your acrostic poem:

1. Decide what to write about.
2. Write your word down vertically, with each letter on a new line.
3. Write down words or phrases that describe your idea.
4. Place your words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters.
5. Fill in the rest of the lines to create a poem.

You can use single words, phrases, or even full sentences in your acrostic poem. They can be about anything! They usually don't rhyme, although they can.

Are there any outdoor artworks that have names which interest you? Perhaps you could use their titles to inspire your acrostic poem!



'Mauvaise Alphabet' by Jorgge Menna Barreto (2021)



'Bower of Bliss' by Linder (2021)

Concrete or Shape Poems

Concrete poetry – sometimes also called ‘shape poetry’ – is poetry where its visual appearance matches the topic of the poem.

A famous example is ‘The Mouse’s Tale’ from Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. The shape of the poem is a pun on the word tale/tail, as the words form the shape of a wiggling tail. View this poem here: <http://bootless.net/mouse.html>.

The name ‘Concrete Poetry’ was created in the 1950’s, when a group of Brazilian poets called the *Noigandres* held an international exhibition of their work, and then developed a ‘manifesto’ to define the style. The manifesto states that concrete poetry ‘communicates its own structure: structure = content’.

Follow the steps below to have a go at creating your own concrete poetry.

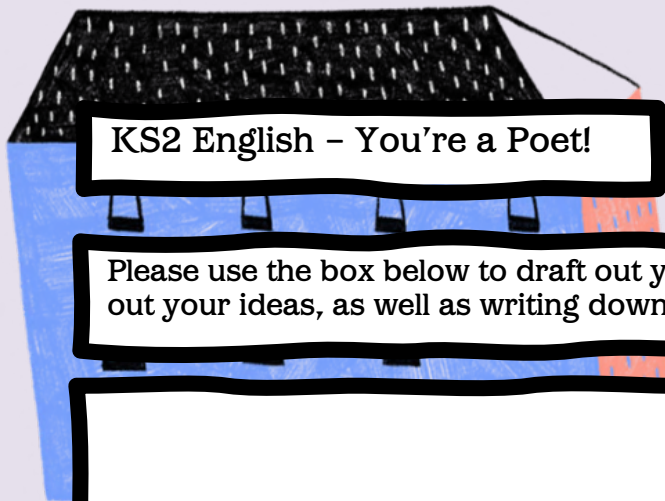
1. Choose an object to be the subject for your poem. Which outdoor artwork from Liverpool Biennial has an interesting shape?
2. Draw a simple outline of this shape on paper. Make sure you draw with a pencil, not a pen.
3. Write your poem on a separate sheet. Try to describe how the subject makes you feel. Try not to make it too long – between 6-12 lines is probably a good length!
4. Then, try to fit the words of your poem into the shape that you have drawn.



‘Pan African Flag for the Relic Travellers’ Alliance’ by Larry Achiampong (2017 - ongoing)



‘Osteoclast (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)’ by Teresa Solar (2021)



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Please use the box below to draft out your poems. The box is blank so that you can sketch out your ideas, as well as writing down words, phrases and lines for your poems!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for drafting poems. The box is completely blank.

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