

Knowledge Organiser: Writing to Entertain – Poetry Inspired by <i>The Piano</i>		
Year Group: 6	Subject: English	Spring 2
The Big Picture		
In this unit, pupils will watch and listen to <i>The Piano</i> , an animation by Aidan Gibbons. They will engage in poetry writing inspired by its themes of love, loss, conflict, and resolution. The unit integrates drama, guided reading, and structured writing tasks to develop pupils’ confidence in poetic expression.		
What is Poetry?	Prior Learning	
<p>Poetry is a form of creative writing that expresses thoughts, emotions, and ideas using carefully chosen words. It often includes patterns, rhythms, and poetic devices such as rhyme, alliteration, and imagery.</p> <p>Purpose of Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● To express emotions and ideas creatively● To entertain and inspire● To create vivid images in the reader’s mind● To explore language and sound patterns <p>Famous Poets and Poems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● William Wordsworth – Daffodils● Robert Frost – The Road Not Taken● Maya Angelou – Still I Rise● Benjamin Zephaniah – Talking Turkeys	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Experience with figurative language and descriptive writing.● Understanding of rhythm and rhyme from previous poetry units.● Familiarity with historical themes of war, loss, and memory from History and English studies.● Exposure to performance techniques in drama and spoken language activities.	
	Gaps to Address	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Some pupils may struggle with structuring poetry effectively.● Understanding and applying advanced poetic devices such as enjambment and symbolism.● Developing confidence in performing poetry with expression.● Expanding vocabulary to create more vivid imagery.	
Key Vocabulary		

Term	Definition
Metaphor	A comparison saying something is something else. Example: His memories were ghosts playing along the keys.
Simile	A comparison using like or as. Example: The notes flowed like water in a quiet stream.
Personification	Giving human qualities to non-human things. Example: The piano wept a sorrowful tune.
Alliteration	Repetition of initial sounds in words. Example: Melancholy melodies moved through the misty air.
Stanza	A grouped set of lines in a poem, like a paragraph in prose.
Enjambment	A sentence or phrase that continues beyond a line break in a poem.
Imagery	Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.

Language Features

- Figurative language: Metaphor, simile, personification, alliteration.
- Sensory details: Sight, sound, touch, taste, smell.
- Rhythm and sound devices: Rhyme, repetition, assonance, and onomatopoeia.
- Symbolism: Objects or elements representing deeper meanings.
- Tone and mood: The feeling created through word choice and structure.

Structural Features

- Title – Engaging and relevant to the theme.
- Stanzas – Organised sections of lines, sometimes following a pattern.
- Line breaks – Used to create rhythm, suspense, or emphasis.
- Punctuation (or lack of it) – Can influence the flow and meaning.
- Free verse vs. structured form – Deciding whether to follow a rhyme scheme or not.
- Repetition – Used for emphasis and to create patterns.

Top Tips for Writing an Effective

Top Tips for Writing an Effective Poem

- Engage the senses – Use descriptive words to bring emotions and scenes to life.
- Experiment with structure – Free verse, rhyming, different stanza lengths.
- Use strong imagery – Paint pictures with words to evoke emotions.
- Play with sound – Read your poem aloud to test rhythm and flow.
- Be intentional with punctuation – It can shape the pace and impact of the poem.
- Consider different perspectives – Write from different viewpoints.

- Edit and refine – Review and improve word choices for maximum effect.