

 20 MINUTES

INTERNET ACCESS

What's it for?

Aim: Understand different uses for poetry.



Instructions: Read or listen to the poems found on these pages. Why do you think each poet wrote the poem? Do the poems have messages and what are they?

Robert Burns, A Man's a Man for a' That: <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/mans-man-0/>

Wendy Cope, Proverbial Ballade: <https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/proverbial-ballade/>

Solli Raphael, Air: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3C-DO9FyEo>

Extension: Find a poem local to you and think why the poet wrote it. You could use the poetry map of Scotland: <https://stanzapoetry.org/blog/poetry-map>. Share the poem you find with a friend and discuss the purpose of the poem.

 40 MINUTES

PAPER AND PEN

Say your Piece

Aim: To write a poem with a powerful message. As the Cornish poet Charles Causley said: "A poem has to be the most powerful thing one can say in the shortest space possible".

Instructions: Go on a walk, cycle or scoot around your local area and pay attention to what's around you. Think about how this place and its community has changed to be as it is today and how they will be in the future. You may want to jot some notes down. What do you want it to be like in the future? What processes will need to happen for this to become true?

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- People to stop littering?
- A skatepark to be built?
- Different shops?
- Buildings to be changed or given different purposes?



Now use your thoughts and feelings to write a poem which powerfully communicates your message about the future you want for your local area. You can use any form of poetry you wish and any poetic devices such as rhyme, rhythm, simile, metaphor, alliteration or repetition. See our example below.

Extension: Turn it into performance poetry by recording yourself saying the poem. Try and give the poem even more impact by saying the words with feeling. Share with your friends or family, do they agree with your vision for the future?

Think about the process of writing the poem, was it difficult? Read Liz Lochhead's poem about being a poet, Poets Need Not: <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/poets-need-not/>. How do you think she would perform this poem?

These Fields

How many sheep and cattle have grazed these fields?

What crops have grown, what families once fed?

Did trees and woodpeckers once roam the lazy slopes,

Yet now confined to the wooded stream banks?

Could we grow energy here? Harness the westerly wind and the wandering sun?

Or energy for us; harness a plough for fertile food production,

With families from town growing their own spuds?

I wish bees would hum, birds sing and the breeze serenade silken wrapped sweetcorn

With beans, salad leaves, beetroot, oats, neeps, barley, carrots, peas and wheat flourishing between.

Oh what a feast we could have, instead of this barren empty green.

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