

## Poetry Day Ireland 2020 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Class Activities:



(Source: Poetry Day Ireland 2020: Education Resource)

There are no rules about how poetry should be defined and there are no rules about how it should be written either!

### Acrostic Poem:

Read Gabriel Fitzmaurice's poem, 'Imagination',

I magination is the thing that

M akes you magic

A nd

G ives you

I nspiration to make everything

N ew,

A nd

T o

I nvent things that are

O nly seen by you, where

N othing is impossible. Imagine!

Can you write a similar acrostic poem about what poetry means to you?

P owerful

O utstanding

E xciting

T ruthful

R hythmic

Y appy!

### List Poems:

Poetry uses language in interesting ways. Try to tell a 'poem story' about yourself in an interesting way. Use the form of a list to create a poem about you. Think up an interesting title.

#### **SONG OF ME (Example by Enda Wyley)**

The day I was born

The wind in my hair as I cycle to school

The smile on my Dad's face when I come home from school

The sun in my mum's hair

The warmth of my little brother's hand in mine ...

Look at Lucinda Jacob's poem, 'I Am'. Try writing a poem about yourself using animals to create a series of word pictures just like Lucinda has done in her poem. Begin each sentence of your list poem with 'I am'.

## **I AM**

I am a tortoise crawling out of bed in the morning, I am a cat lapping up my milk at breakfast, I am a puppy tumbling in the classroom door, I am an ant pushing my load uphill all day, I am an eagle diving on my snack at breaktime, I am a lizard snoozing in the sun of story time, I am a cheetah racing in the afternoon park, I am a lion roaring at the top of the hill, I am a bear with my honey at teatime, I am an owl blinking in the twilight, I am a salmon swimming upstream against sleep, I am the dreamer with dreams deep as the ocean.

### **Poetry as a Recipe for Happiness:**

What makes you happy? Can you capture happiness in a poem? Read Grace Wells' poem... **THE RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS**

The recipe for happiness in our house is to take a cup of flour and milk, two eggs, a pinch of salt, and whisk for half an hour.

Then take the creamy mixture to the steaming frying pan, ladle little circles in, as many as you can.

Watch them all turn gold and brown, then sit down to eat, sugar and lemon on one side, pour maple syrup to complete.

### **Write your own Recipe for Happiness**

Draw cooking pots on coloured paper. Cut them out and line them. Write your 'recipe' poem within this pot and decorate it and display. Some of the recipes may be imaginative but others such as Grace Wells' poem might be practical and can actually be cooked at home. Enjoy making a pizza or a pancake - or whatever your recipe is - to go with your poem!

## Poetry Writing Exercises Using your Senses:

### Exercise 1

Sit outdoors for a few minutes with your eyes closed. Write down a record of what you have heard around you. Add to the sound any smells you have become aware of - the feel of the grass, concrete around you, the air against your skin, etc. Then open your eyes completely and add all the things you can see to the record.

### Exercise 2

Keep your notebook next to you as you eat a meal and jot down all that is happening, as if all you can do is taste.

### Exercise 3

Take your notebook out for a walk and write down everything that is happening about you. Try to build up a flow of ideas. Touch, smell everything around you - a railing, hedges, smell new paint, traffic fumes, a bonfire, etc. Write it all down.

Don't forget! Have fun!

