

Week Beginning 22.2.21

ENGLISH – Poetry

This is a 2 week poetry unit linked to our topic work on rivers.

Week 1 of 2

This week, we are going to get to know a rhyming poem really well.

It is called ‘The River’ by Valerie Bloom.

Lesson 1 – First Impressions of the poem (‘Tell me’ grid)

Read the poem at least 2 of 3 times. Why not try:

- Reading it aloud to yourself
- Reading it in your head
- Listening to the poem read by the author (follow this link):
[The River | Children's Poetry Archive](#)
- Reading it aloud to someone else
- Reading it aloud with someone else

Complete the ‘Tell me’ grid to record your first impressions of the poem. Try and discuss your ideas with someone and give examples on the grid where you can.

(Don't feel like you have to print off the sheet – you can write your ideas under headings on a piece of paper)

Lesson 2 – Vocabulary

Now that you are familiar with the poem, try reading it again – this time thinking more carefully about the rhythm and rhyming patterns.

Today, we are going to learn the meaning of some tricky words in the poem.

- Complete the ‘tricky word’ grid
 - Firstly, write what YOU think the word means. Re-reading the word in the phrase or verse could help give you clues to its meaning!
 - Use a dictionary if you have one or an online dictionary like <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/browse/dictionary> to find the actual meaning of each word
- Challenge: Can you write each word in a new sentence to show your understanding?

Lesson 3 – Exploring Stanzas

Today, we are going to deepen our understanding of what the poet is trying to communicate in each stanza. A stanza is another name for a verse of a poem (a group of lines that sit together).

- Your job is to match the information to each of the 6 stanzas (verses) on the worksheet

Lesson 4 – Drawing your own interpretation of each stanza

Today, I would like to really imagine what each ‘personality’ of the river is like. Each stanza gives a different description of the river, and I would like you to draw what you imagine each to be like. You can label your pictures with words and phrases.

- Try to show each of the river’s ‘personalities’ in your pictures. Think about:
 - Where the river is at that point in the poem (mountain, forest, countryside, town, etc.)
 - The shape/width of the river or any other features (rapids, waterfalls)
 - The colours that you use (these will help to communicate feelings, e.g. calm, lively, angry)
 - The other objects that might be in each picture (people, animals, treasure, etc.)
- This can be done on the grid provided, or any way you choose to present it!

Lesson 5 – Comprehension questions about the whole poem

Complete the comprehension questions on worksheet 5.

Reading

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You will need to sign up but it is completely free. Follow the link.

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https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/user/sign_up.html

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