

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

25th
anniversary

3RD OCTOBER 2019

The Truth versus Fake News

A poetry writing activity created
by the National Literacy Trust

Key stage 2

National
Literacy
Trust

The **National Literacy Trust** is an independent charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed in life.
www.literacytrust.org.uk

Liar

I told a whopper, a fib, a lie.
Slipped out of my mouth. It was slimy, sly.

Save me, it hissed. A secret must hide.
So I opened my bag and it slithered inside.

It fed in the dark, grew fat on my shame
as I carried it with me. It whispered my name.
My friend, it kept saying, *there's no need to frown.*
But that load of my shoulder was dragging me down.

It wouldn't stay still and it started to smell.
I stumbled and tripped on my words. I fell.

In horror, I watched as my lie tumbled out.
Down by my feet it lay, wriggling about.

A crowd gathered round. They let out a cry
It's a lie. It's a lie. It's a lie. It's a lie

It is. I admit it, I quietly replied.
And the lie took its last gasp, shrivelled and died.

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from **My Life as a Goldfish and other poems** by Rachel Rooney



www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

Starter (10 mins)

Establish the idea that sometimes we hear about amazing, surprising or silly stories through the news. This is different from 'fake news', which some people choose to deliberately write and share to mislead people.

- As a class play the CBBC real or fake news quiz: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/real-or-fake-news-quiz>
- Alternatively, play 'two truths and a lie' with children, encouraging them to share surprising facts or amazing things they have done
- Ask the children to share any amazing or surprising real news stories they have heard, seen or read.

Poetry relay (5 mins)

Divide the class up into teams.

Provide each team of pupils with one of the real headlines from the stories the children have shared or from the fake news quiz:

- Australia is on the move!
- Humboldt penguin breaks into family home!

This headline is now the first line of a new poem.

In their teams, each pupil should write a new line of poetry when they are passed the 'baton' (the pen!). Make sure you set a time limit. Share the different poems after the race.



Writing a poem (20 mins)

Allow children time to create their own poem about a silly or amazing news story. You could do this by:

- **Using the group relay poem**

Pupils could choose their favourite lines from the group poem and rearrange them, use them as the starting point for a new poem or use one of the lines as the title for their poem.

- **Listing fake news**

Children could create a list poem using all the fake news stories they can think of, find online or create themselves. You could provide a summary line such as 'but none of it was real!'

- **Mixing and matching headlines**

Provide pupils with handful of words or lines cut from real newspapers. They could piece lines of text together to make a new poem or could create their own amazing or silly 'headline' using individual words.

Performance and feedback (10 mins)

Encourage students to share their poems with their partner and to provide feedback using a model they are familiar with (e.g. two stars and a wish).

