



25th anniversary

## The Truth versus Fake News

A poetry writing activity created by the National Literacy Trust

### Key stage 3



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](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)

### Three Lies and One Truth about the Moon

1. The moon only exists at night, and occasionally during the day, in summer
2. No-one has ever landed on the moon, and the Russian President knows this but promised his mum he wouldn't say anything
3. The moon is a hollow spaceship inhabited by Nazi rabbits that turn men into werewolves
4. If my heart was as big as the moon I couldn't love you more

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## Starter (10 mins)

As a class generate a list of news headlines.

You could do this by:

- taking the CBBC real or fake news quiz: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/real-or-fake-news-quiz>
- playing 'two truths and a lie', encouraging students to share surprising facts or amazing things they have done
- asking students for the latest information they have found out about celebrities, e.g. from social media or magazines

## Poetry relay (5 mins)

Divide the class up into teams and provide each team with one headline from the list.

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

In their teams, each student 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 students time to create their own poem inspired by a news story. You could do this by:

- **Using the group relay poem**  
Students 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.
- **Mixing and matching headlines**  
Provide students 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 'headline' using individual words.
- **Listing rumours**  
Have students create a list poem using stories about a particular celebrity or write a poem from the celebrity's perspective, reflecting on whether the stories about them are true or not and what the impact of that might be.

## 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).

