

NATIONAL POETRY DAY TOOLKIT 2017

FREEDOM

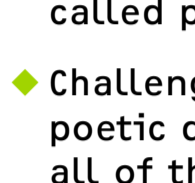
4. USING MORERAPS BY JOSEPH COELHO

USING THE MORERAPS TO EXPLORE FREEDOM

The focus of this activity is to explore poetic devices, game play, competition and freeing up the idea of what poetry is.

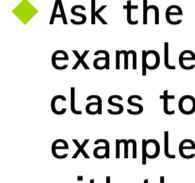
YOU WILL NEED:

Read aloud to your class or display the video of M.O.R.E.R.A.P.S.



P56 in Werewolf Club Rules by Joseph Coelho

or



Video link: [youtube/S_txb_c2PLU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_txb_c2PLU)

ACTIVITY

- ◆ Write M.O.R.E.R.A.P.S. vertically down a board
- ◆ Tell students that each letter stands for a tool that we can use to make writing more exciting, and these are called poetic devices
- ◆ Challenge them to listen out to what the different poetic devices are. Can anyone in the class remember all of them from the poem?
- ◆ If necessary, read/watch M.O.R.E.R.A.P.S. a second time
- ◆ Ask the students what each letter stands for asking for examples from the class as you go along. Challenge the class to make each example about freedom. There are examples given below but challenge the class to come up with their own, prompting where necessary. The aim is to create a class poem that the class has ownership over

METAPHOR

Saying one thing is another thing to show what it is like.

Freedom is an open window.

ONOMATOPOEIA

A word that sound like what it means.

Freedom tweets.

RHYME

A word that has the same sound as another.

**Freedom is a light
Shining ever so bright.**

EMOTION

Giving the poem a mood or feeling.

Freedom fill the world with joy.

REPETITION

Repeating a line or a word to show that it is important.

Free, free I feel free.

ALLITERATION

Using several words in a row beginning with the same letter.

The weight of the world wafted away as freedom waded in.

PERSONIFICATION

Making an inanimate object seem like a person.

Freedom shimmies and flows across the dancefloor of the world.

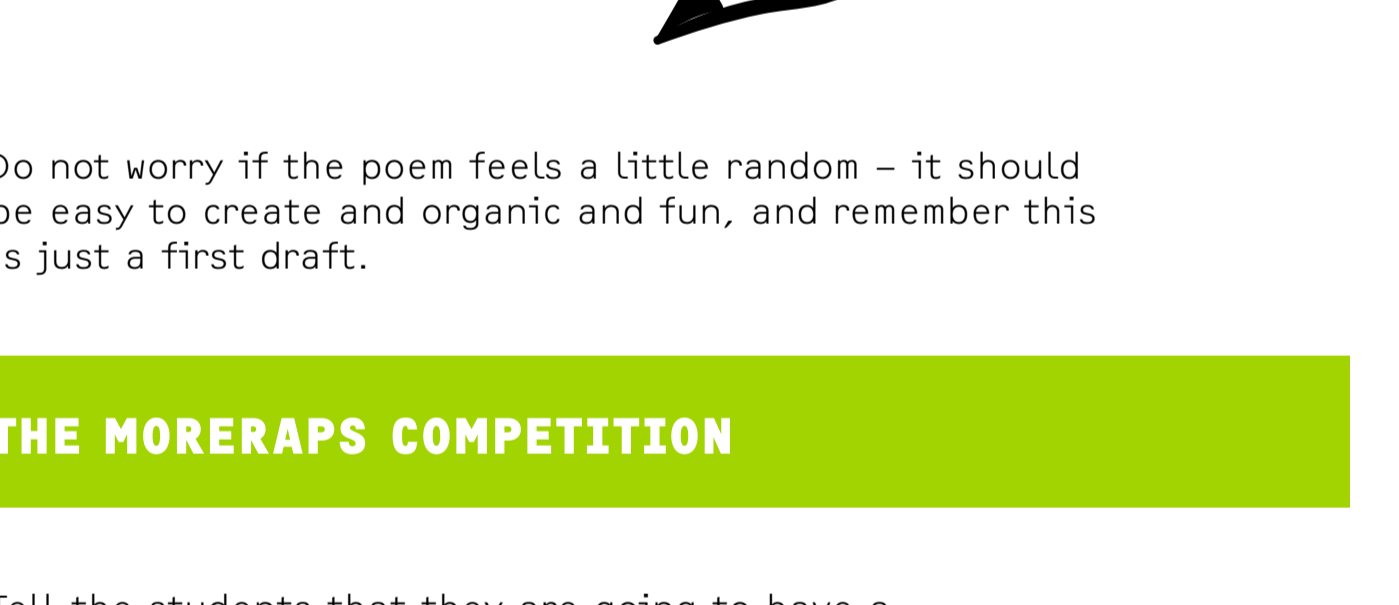
SIMILE

Comparison of one thing with another using like or as.

Freedom is like a deep breath.



Once all the examples are created and written on the board read out just the examples as a poem for instance...



FREEDOM

Freedom is an open window.

Freedom tweets.

Freedom is a light,
shining ever so bright.

Freedom fill the world with joy.

Free, free I feel free.

The weight of the world wafted
away as freedom waded in.

Freedom shimmies and flows across
the dancefloor of the world.

Freedom is like a deep breath.

Do not worry if the poem feels a little random – it should be easy to create and organic and fun, and remember this is just a first draft.

THE MORERAPS COMPETITION

Tell the students that they are going to have a competition between their table groups (mixed table groups) to see who can get the most points by writing examples of each of the M.O.R.E.R.A.P.S. all on the themes of freedom.

With the classes help assign a point value between 1-10 to each of the M.O.R.E.R.A.P.S. for example:

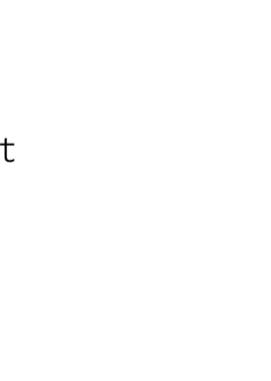
Metaphor = 8 points

Onomatopoeia = 4 points

Rhyme = 2 points

...and so on - it is important that points are decided by the class reflecting how hard or difficult a device is to do (this will be different for each class).

Give each table group a huge piece of sugar paper and lots of pens/pencils to ensure everyone can write at the same time. The writing does not have to be in straight lines - the aim is to cover the paper in poetic lines. Some words will be big, some small, some upside down.



Tell students that each time they write a metaphor they will get 8 points and each time they write a sentence that uses Onomatopoeia they will get 4 points and so on. The sentences can be serious, fun, silly or nonsensical. just as long as they keep the theme of freedom in mind.

Tell the class that if they manage to use more than one device in a single sentence the points will be multiplied for instance...

The sun is an orange zooming across the sky, it flies so high.

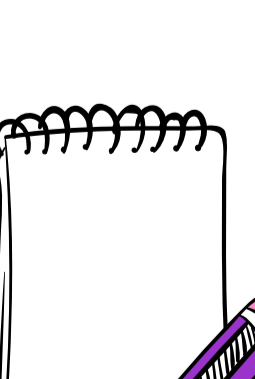
This sentence uses metaphor, onomatopoeia and rhyme and so its points equal $8 \times 4 \times 2 = 64$

Depending on the combination of devices and the points assigned it is very possible to get sentences worth tens of thousands of points (these sentences might be quite long).

Bonus points can be given for groups that manage to write examples of all of the M.O.R.E.R.A.P.S. or that write particularly strong sentences. Minus points can be assigned to a device (i.e. rhyme) if you have a class that is perhaps over using a certain device.

Joe's Tip

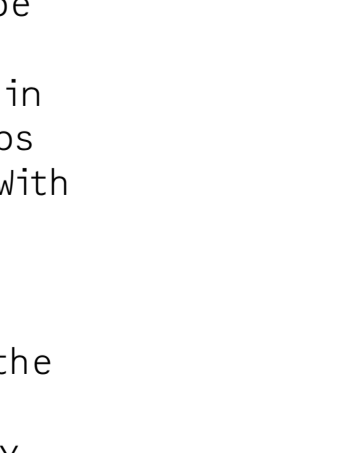
"If you don't want to create a competitive environment, tables can compete against themselves, e.g. see how many points they get in one 15 minute stint then see if they can beat their own record."



PERFORMANCE

Once points have been worked out, students can be challenged to use the large sheets as poetry banks. Challenge them to create a poem using only the sentences available on their table's sheet.

Depending on their points groups can be given first, second, third and so on, and a choice of different exciting types of paper to write on and different implements to write with. For example, different coloured card, nice felt tips, giant pencils, specially designed paper such as the cheap pads you can buy in stationery shops that have illustrated edges, cool postcards, charcoal, disposable lab coats.



DIFFERENTIATION

Because this is a group activity, it is key that abilities are mixed. Some groups may decide that there should be one scribe with everyone else feeding in ideas, other groups may want to pair up and write on the big sheet in pairs, one writing one making suggestions, other groups may want to all write independently at the same time. With mixed groups no one should feel left out.

Once first drafts are written poems can be shared with the class and constructive suggestions given to make the poems even stronger. Students can now be encouraged to redraft their work and to feel free to not make every sentence one of the MORERAPS but to rather get used to regularly thinking about how they can push their writing.

THANKS

This resource was developed by poet Joseph Coelho for National Poetry Day with children at Collingwood Primary School, Hull.