



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

4TH OCTOBER 2018

Key stage 2/3

Changing Seasons

A National Poetry Day resource
created by the Betjeman
Poetry Prize



BETJEMAN
POETRY
PRIZE

Founded in 2006 to mark the centenary of the former Poet Laureate John Betjeman's birth, the **Betjeman Poetry Prize** aims to foster creativity in young people while discovering and encouraging the next generation of British poets.

www.betjemanpoetryprize.co.uk

In the Garden

Each step you take
reveals a new layer
of crisp Autumn leaves
painted on the frosty torn up grass.

Up on the old wood decking
sits the little shoebox hut
filled with vast memories
racing through my mind.

Down on the stones
lies a flower patch
full of trees that look like people
and beaming flowers drooped over the churned up mud

Now a mere thought
Dead and overgrown
Leaves a dejected piece of land
That was once full of life.

Rebecca MacLean (13)



Opening sequence

- All pupils shut their eyes for one minute
- Teacher to ask pupils to open their eyes and write down the first 3 words that pop into their heads
- All pupils read out their 3 words in fast sequence, following the line of desks / tables

Working with a poem to understand the power of language

- Every pupil to be given a copy of 'In the Garden' by Betjeman Prize finalist Rebecca MacLean (age 13)
- Poem to be read out twice by individual volunteers, then once by the whole class together
- Close reading - teacher to ask the following questions of the whole class:

Voice - Who is speaking? Is the speaker near or far? Intimate or remote?

Form - Does it rhyme? Are there verses or is it free flowing? How would you describe the diction? Formal, breezy, yearning, nostalgic or scientific, for example?

Observation - Can you find signs of perceiving - seeing, hearing, smelling, touching. What are the sensory aspects of the poem?

Mood - What is the mood of the text? What mood does reading it leave you in?

Motion - What does the poem do? Does the reader move with the speaker? Does the poem bring you to a different place in its course?

- **TASK (CHANGE)** - The teacher asks each pupil to cross out the last line and write instead 'That is now full of life'. With this simple change, the poem is altered. The pupils must now go back and think of other ways to transform the garden from one of autumnal decay to a garden full of spring or summer joy and regeneration, by finding new words for:

**Crisp Autumn, Frosty torn up,
Old, Vast memories, Drooped over
the churned up mud, Dead and
overgrown, Dejected**

- Teacher to ask a few pupils at random to read out their new poems and whole class to note how changing a few words to change the season changes the mood.

Closing sequence

- Every child shuts their eyes for one minute
- Teacher to ask pupils to open their eyes and write down the first 3 words that pop into their head
- Pupils read out their 3 words in fast sequence
- *Pupils to note the difference between their opening 3 words and closing 3 words. How has their mood changed during the class?*

