

Poetry Prompts: Week 74

Alliteration

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 74 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. In this week's poetry prompt, Joseph Coelho was exploring alliteration, creating a poem with lots of words that began with the letter 'S'. Alliteration is when a series of words, that have the same first consonant sound occur close together in the phrases or lines of poetry. Here's another poem by Joseph Coelho where he uses alliteration, see if you can hear the repeated sound that is used throughout...



Look at the poem:

Read the poem aloud. You might do this yourself, with a friend or someone else could read it to you:

Try

Try twisting your tongue
then tuning your teeth,
try taking your tonsils
from a tummy tickling thief.

Try tasting your tears
then trumpeting your toes,
try taping your temper
to the tip of your nose.

From *Poems Aloud* by Joseph Coelho
(Wide Eyed Editions, 2020)

Think about the poem:

Consider the poem
you just heard or
read. What sound did
you hear repeated
throughout?

Think about how the
poem connects to your
own experience. Can you
recall a time where you
have tried to do something
new or difficult? What
was it?



Look at the language:

- Read the poem again and **circle or underline all the words which start with the /t/ sound**. How many were there in total? Do you know the meanings of all these words? If not, what do you think they mean, in the context of the poem? Find a dictionary, either a physical copy or an online dictionary one like: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/browse/dictionary> and check whether your predictions were correct.
- Now, see **how many more words you can think of that start with the /t/ sound**. If you find it tricky, start by thinking of different categories of words – actions, emotions, objects, animals etc.

Perform the poem:

- The poem is quite tricky to read because of all the repeated sounds. You could also call this poem a Tongue Twister. **Read it through a few times so that you can practise getting all the words out, ready to perform it to an audience.** Think about which bits are the hardest to read, why this might be and how you can make it easier when performing out loud. Could you slow some parts down to help you?
- Now, **think how to bring out the action in the poem.** Will some parts be louder or quieter, faster or slower, higher or lower? How will you pace your performance? How could you use actions or facial expression? How will you make sure any actions you choose to incorporate **add to the performance**, rather than detract from it?
- Rehearse your performance a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else.** What sense of the character did they gain from your performance?

Find all Poetry Prompts as well as more information about Joseph Coelho at booktrust.org.uk/childrens-laureate

Write your own!

- Think about another letter and sound that you could use to write your own alliterative poem. **Write down as many words as possible that you can think of that start with this sound.** Once again, you may find it easier to start by thinking of different categories of words – actions, emotions, objects, names, animals etc.
- When you have some words and phrases written down, look over your list and see if any of these **stand out to you as a subject for your own alliterative poem.** Perhaps an object, name or animal might give you inspiration for a subject for your poem?
- Use the rest of the words you have collected to **compose your own poem** about the subject you have chosen. **Consider how your words will be arranged on the page** and where you might break lines or verses.
- When you have something written down, **read it aloud to hear how it flows off the page.** Have you repeated your sounds enough throughout the poem to make it twist your tongue? Make any changes you need to then write or type up your finished poem. You might even want to **draw an illustration to accompany it.**
- Give your **finished poem to someone else to read.** How easy do they find it to read aloud with all the repeated sounds?

Find and explore more poems on CLPE's website.

This sequence of activities was designed in partnership with CLPE. CLPE is a UK-based children's literacy charity working with primary schools to raise the achievement of children's reading and writing by helping schools to teach literacy creatively and effectively, putting quality children's books at the heart of all learning. Find out more about their work, and access further resources and training at: clpe.org.uk.