

Poetry Prompts: Week 4

Onomatopoeia and describing sounds with words

This sheet is to accompany the forth Poetry Prompt video featuring Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. This week's Poetry Prompt focusses on onomatopoeia and describing sounds with words.

Read the poem:

Here's another poem written by Joseph Coelho, which describes the sounds made when you are eating and drinking different things.

My Favourite Food

My favourite fruits are apples. **Crunch!**
My favourite drink is tea. **Sip!**

I like to munch on apples
and I love a pot of tea. **Crunch! Sip!**

My favourite cake is rock. **Bite!**
My favourite sandwich is jam. **Yum!**

I like to bite on rock cakes
and get yummy with some jam. **Bite! Yum!**

My favourite veg is carrot. **Snap!**
My favourite pudding is jelly. **Wobble!**

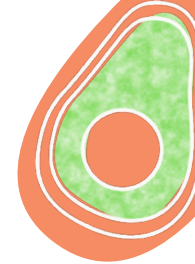
I like to snap a carrot
and get wobbly with jelly. **Snap! Wobble!**

From *Blow a Kiss, Catch a Kiss* by Joseph Coelho
(Andersen Press, 2022)

Think about the poem:

What do you think about the favourite foods mentioned in the poem? Have you tried any of them? What were they like? Do you like or dislike them? Are any of these your favourite foods too?

If you had to choose your favourite fruit, drink, cake, sandwich, veg and pudding, what would you pick and why?



Look at the language:

- Now, read the poem again and **circle any words** that describe the sounds made when you eat or drink these things.
- Why do you think the **poet chose these words**? Could any other words have been used? What might these be?

Perform the poem:

- This is quite an active poem, sharing what it's like to eat and drink different things. **Think about how you might bring the poem to life** when performing it. Consider the verbs in the poem – ***munch, bite, snap*** – and all the different words used to describe the sounds made when each thing is eaten or drunk. How will you **use actions or use your voice** to display the meaning of these words? Where will you speed up, slow down or pause? Will your voice be **louder or quieter** in different parts of the poem? How will you perform the onomatopoeic words?
- Rehearse your performance a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else**. Did they enjoy it? What did they like most?

Write your own!

- Think about **your own favourite foods and drinks**. What kinds of food are these – fruits, vegetables, cakes, puddings, meat, confectionery? Is your favourite drink hot or cold, still or fizzy? Why do you like these things the best?
- Now **think about the words you could use to describe** the sounds these things make as you eat or drink them. Make a note of these next to the food or drink they relate to.
- You can also **think about specific verbs** that describe how you eat or drink these things, like ***crunch, bite, snap, gulp*** or ***slurp***.
- Use these ideas to **write your own poem** about your favourite foods and drinks and the sounds they make. You could use the same **repeating line structure** of the original poem, starting each line with ***My favourite... is...*** or ***I like to...*** or you could write freely in any way you wish.
- Think about **how you will present your poem** on the page. You might find it **fun to write out your poem** on a paper plate if you have one. What will the title of your poem be? Where will you break the lines? Will there be more than one verse?
- You could also **illustrate your poem**.

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

Find and explore more poems that use onomatopoeia on CLPE's Website.

This sequence of activities was designed in collaboration with CLPE. CLPE is a UK 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 www.clpe.org.uk.