

## Poetry Prompts: Week 26

# Found poems

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 26 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. Today's Poetry Prompt focussed on found poems. Inspiration for a poem can be found everywhere, even on an everyday walk, as in this poem by Joseph Coelho.

### Read the poem:

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

## As I Walked

As I walked, I wondered  
about the tree about to be cut down  
a universe of living things  
strewn harshly on the ground.

As I walked, I pondered  
on the house where the family would shout  
the skips carrying their pain away  
where could they be right now?

As I walked, I grimaced  
at the rubbish on the ground  
it seems to be getting worse  
making a mess of our little town.

From *Smile Out Loud* by Joseph Coelho  
(Wide Eyed Editions, 2022)

As I walked, I marvelled  
at the sea's endless invite  
I saw the surfers riding its waves –  
waves of escape, waves of delight.

As I walked, I heard  
families laughing on the sands  
dogs racing wildly  
children building imaginary lands.

As I walked, I saw  
a lady in her chair  
struggling down the bumpy road –  
her dog's protective stare.

My walks make me wonder  
of the variety of life  
the sadness and the joy  
the leisure and the strife.

The pain that some endure  
while others whizz on by  
the world we must protect  
while we're all just trying to get by.

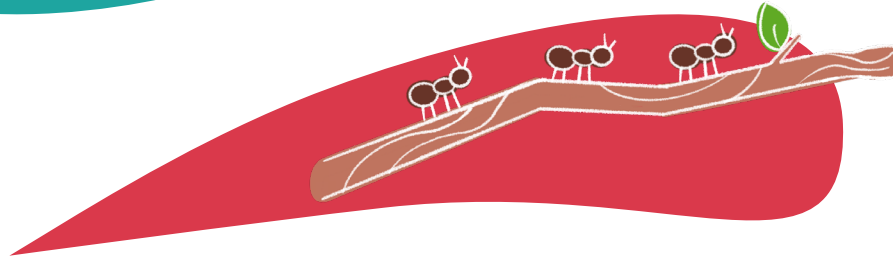
So, a resolution forms  
starts walking through my head  
to remove all judgment  
all pointless point and blame  
to choose another way, a kinder, gentler route  
through life's ambling game.



## Think about the poem:

Now, consider the poem in relation to your life. What connections do you make with it? How are you left feeling at the end? What does it make you think about the world around you?

Think about the words you just read or heard. What did they make you think about? How do they make you feel? What made you feel this way?

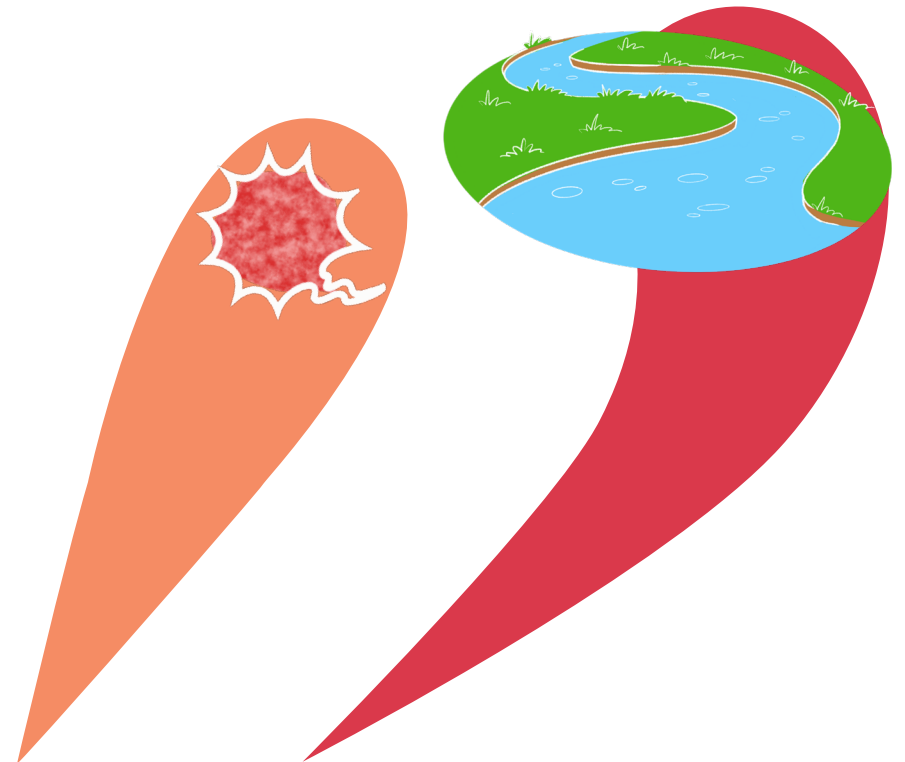
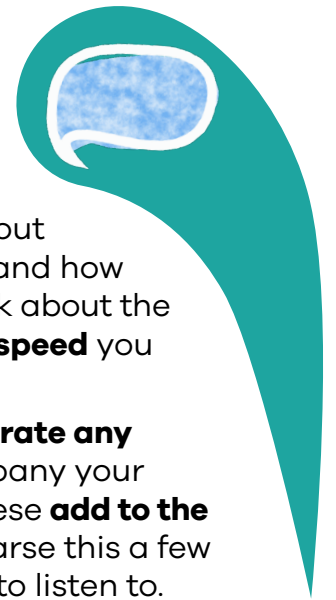


## Look at the language:

- **Circle or underline** any verbs or verb phrases that show the **impact the things in the immediate environment** have on the narrator (or 'I') in the poem.
- Now, think about **why they may have had this effect**. Highlight any **descriptive phrases** that allow you to see or feel part of the experience. Which ones do you think are **most impactful in creating an impact** on you as a reader? What **feelings do they provoke** in you? Why do you think this might be?

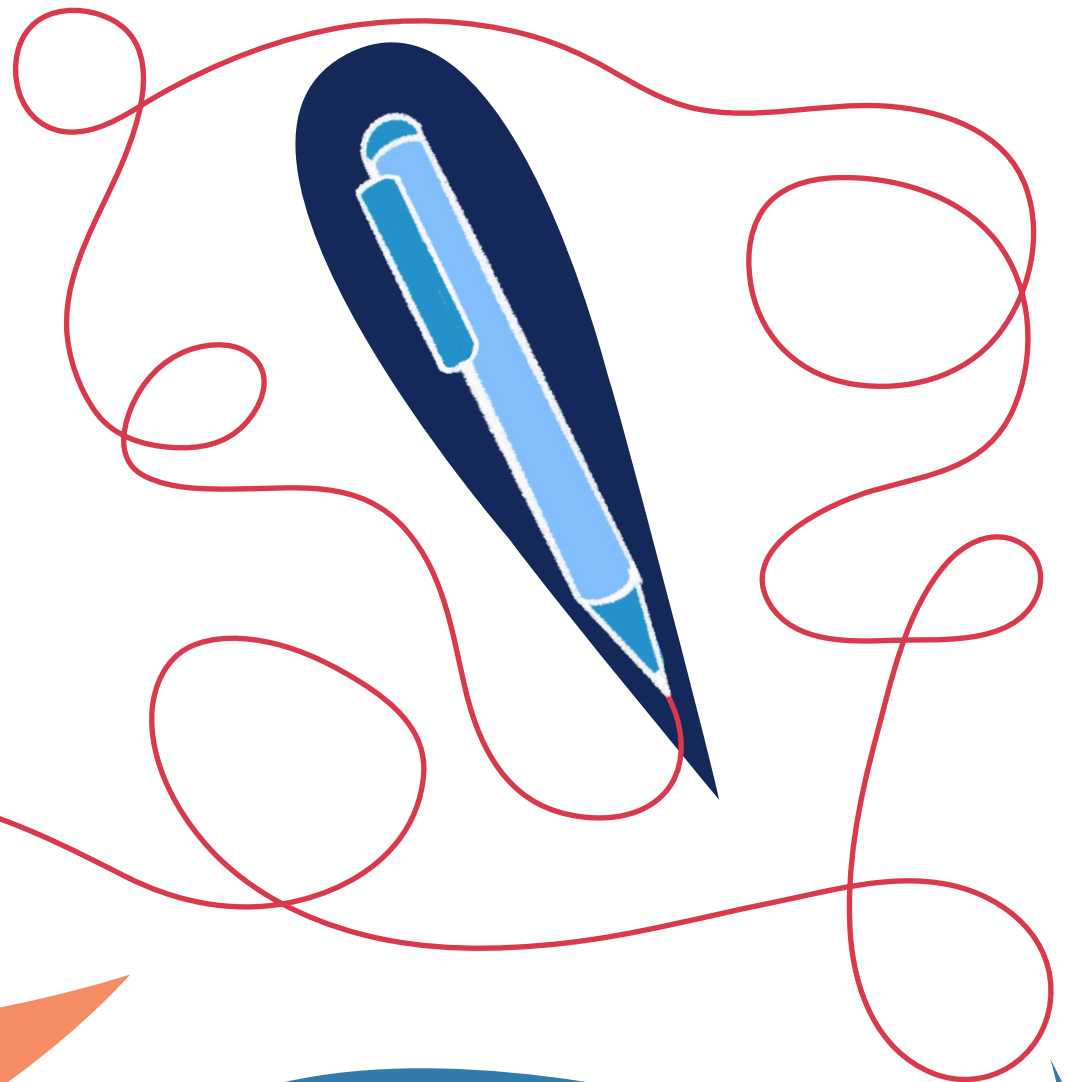
## Perform the poem:

- Consider how to create the sense of the **narrator's journey and the feelings** they experience in a performance, as you move through each verse. Think about the **feelings you want to communicate** and how you might **use your voice** to do this. Think about the **volume and tone** of your voice, and **the speed** you might read at.
- Think about whether you might **incorporate any facial expressions or actions** to accompany your performance. How will you make sure these **add to the performance**, not detract from it? Rehearse this a few times then **perform it for someone else** to listen to.



## Write your own!

- Take a notebook and pencil and **go out into your immediate surroundings**. Make a note of all **the things you see**, but also the **impact these things have** on you as you look upon them.
- Use these notes to **write your own 'As I Walked' poem**, drawing on what you found effective in Joseph Coelho's original poem. How can you **use language to help you describe** the things you see and **the feelings that are provoked** in you, so that someone else reading your poem can feel part of this experience too? You might find it helpful to **start each line with the 'As I walked, I ...'** pattern you see in the original poem to get you started.
- Consider the **feeling you want to leave your reader with** at the end of the poem. How could you achieve this with **your choice of words**?



Find all Poetry Prompts as well as more information about Joseph Coelho at [www.booktrust.org.uk/childrens-laureate](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/childrens-laureate)

### Find and explore poems exploring feelings 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](http://clpe.org.uk).