

## Poetry Prompts: Week 46

# Music

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 46 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. For this week's poetry prompt, Joseph Coelho was joined by musician and children's book author Konya Kanneh-Mason. Together they made a poem inspired by music. Here's another poem by Joseph Coelho, inspired by a musical instrument.

### Read the poem:

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

## Didgeridoo

**Lots of spit  
and vibrating lips  
come from playing a Didgeridoo.**

**Dingo barks  
and Kookaburra harks  
emerge like ghosts from this sound canoe.**

**Ba ba ba  
and wa wa wa wa,  
dreamtime sounds from a pipe of bamboo.**

**Deep base moans  
and massaging drones  
lay kisses of tones like morning dew.**

From *Werewolf Club Rules* by Joseph Coelho  
(Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2014)

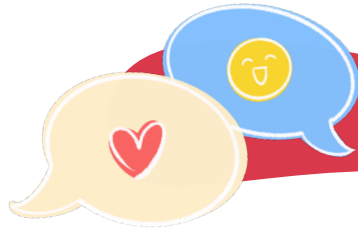
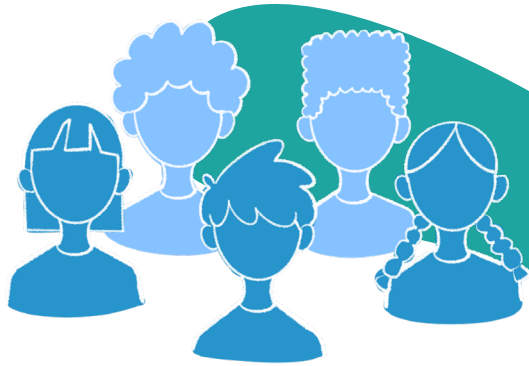
### Think about the poem:

Think about the poem you just heard. What did you learn or find out about a didgeridoo from reading the poem? What ideas do you get about this instrument from reading the poem?

Connect this to your own personal experience. Have you seen or heard a didgeridoo before? What do you already know about them? What might you like to find out about them?

You could watch a video, like this one from BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011mryp> to see how a didgeridoo is made and played. What did you learn from watching the video that you didn't know before? How did what you saw in the video relate to the words you read or heard in the poem?





## Look at the language:

- Read the poem again for yourself. Look carefully at the words on the page and think about what you found out in the video. **Which words tell you about the music of the didgeridoo** – either how it's played or what it sounds like? Which words and phrases tell you about its cultural history? Underline or circle these as you read.
- Think about the words that describe the music of the didgeridoo. **Which do you think most effectively describe it for you?** Why do you think this is? Having heard the didgeridoo in the video, what other words and phrases might you use to describe its sound or how it's played?
- Read the poem aloud once more. What do you notice about the **patterns in the words?** Which words rhyme? Where do these words sit in the lines and verses?

## Perform the poem:

- Consider how you could **bring the rich history, craft and musicality** of the didgeridoo to life for an audience. How will you use your voice, your facial expressions and your body language to bring this out in a performance of the poem? Will some parts be louder or quieter, faster or slower, higher or lower? How will you make sure any actions you may decide to include add to the performance, not detract from it?
- Rehearse your performance a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else**. What did they learn or feel about the didgeridoo from your performance?



## Write your own!

- Think about how you might **write your own poem** about a **specific musical instrument**. Consider the instrument you want to write about and why you want to write about it. What draws you to this instrument? Is it the way it sounds? How it's made? A particular connection you have to it – maybe you play it, or someone else you know does or you've seen it being played somewhere?
- Like you did with the didgeridoo, you may find it helpful to **watch a video of your chosen instrument**, to help you think of words and phrases to describe how it looks, how it sounds, how it's played and aspects of its history. As you watch, **jot down and collect words, phrases and lines** that come to you and see if any of these can be incorporated into your poem.
- Consider what you **want your audience to know or feel** about the instrument and how you can convey this to them. Remember the way that Joseph Coelho chose specific words and phrases that drew you to the cultural history of the didgeridoo as well as its music and how it's played. How could you draw on this in your own writing?
- The original poem rhymed. **Consider if you want your poem to rhyme too**. You could follow the same pattern. If you're finding it difficult to come up with rhyming words, you could try using a rhyming dictionary, such as: <https://www.rhymezone.com/> or you could choose not to make your poem rhyme, and write it as free verse.
- When you have a draft of your poem, **read it aloud to check it flows and makes sense**, then type it up or write it out in your best handwriting to share with others. You may even want to illustrate it.



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

### Find and explore more poems about music 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](https://clpe.org.uk).