

## Poetry Prompts: Week 37

# Recipe

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 37 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. In this week's poetry prompt, Joseph Coelho served up a recipe poem about himself. Here's another recipe poem written 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:

## Recipe for This Boy

Take two cried-out eyes,  
a pinch of loneliness,  
mix in a bowl.

Add a dash of bravery,  
two heaped teaspoons of brotherly love,  
fold in fear.

Crack a box of giggles,  
beat into stomach-aching guffaws,  
blend until smooth.

Add a cup of heart,  
pour in three thick handfuls of hair,  
knead with tickling fingers.

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

Roll out onto a city pavement  
egg-frying hot with summer heat,  
cookie cut the shape of a boy.

Decorate with giggles,  
dust with smiling tears,  
leave to rise  
under the heat of a happy sun.



### Think about the poem:

Consider the words that you just heard or read. What do you think you find out about the boy from reading the poem? What do you think he is like? How do you feel about him when you read the poem?

Think about the poem with your own experiences in mind. Do any of his characteristics remind you of you or someone else you know? What is similar and different about you and this boy?

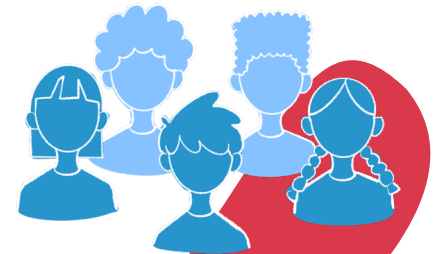
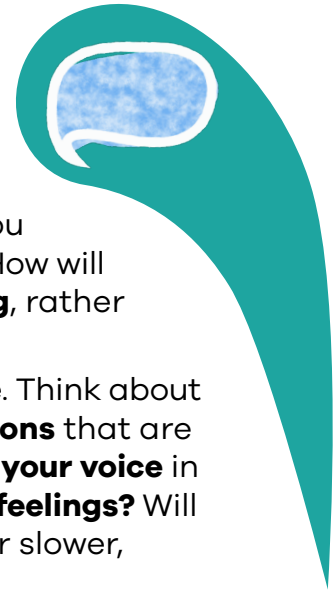


## Look at the language:

- Read the poem again and **circle or underline any words or phrases** that are used to **describe the characteristics** of the boy described – things that describe what he **looks like, feels** or **does**. What do these words **tell you**, or **make you think** or **feel these things**?
- Now, **look at the verbs** which describe the **cooking actions** that take place and any other **cooking specific words or phrases**, for example those that **describe the quantities**. Look at these words again. How do these words work to **shape our thoughts and feelings** about the boy? Why do you think **Joseph Coelho** chose **specific words** to go with specific characteristics?

## Perform the poem:

- Think about how to bring the **recipe idea of the poem to life** in a performance. Think about the **actions and cooking-specific words** you've identified. Could you bring these to life in your performance? How will you make sure this **adds to the meaning**, rather than detracts from it?
- Try out **different ways to read** each verse. Think about the **different characteristics and emotions** that are explored in each verse. How can you **use your voice** in different ways to **bring out the different feelings**? Will some parts be louder or quieter, faster or slower, higher or lower?
- Rehearse your performance a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else**. What sense of the boy did they get from your performance? What did they think you did that was most effective?



## Write your own!

- Think about a **way to make a recipe for someone you know** in a poem. **Draw an outline of a gingerbread person** on a piece of paper and **write the name** of the person you want to write about at the top of the page. Now think of a **title to describe this person** which begins: Recipe for a... For example, it might be a Recipe for a Mum, Dad, Sister, Brother, Friend. Inside the gingerbread person, **write as many words or phrases as you can to describe** this person, and **what makes them special**.
- Now, think about the **cooking-specific actions or words** you could use to **build these things into a poem**. Think about the things Joseph Coelho did that **left an impression on you**. For example, what might **'two heaped teaspoons of brotherly love'** tell you about this boy? Or **'a pinch of loneliness'**? Why do you think **he chose the verb 'crack'** when talking about the **'giggles'**? Have a go at using cooking-specific imagery to **create the same effect for the people who will read your poem**.
- When you've finished, **type or write the poem out in your best handwriting**. You could also **create an illustration** to show what the **person might look like as a gingerbread person**, seeing how you can **share their characteristics** in the way its arms or legs are placed, or **in how it's decorated**.

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 more poems about empathising with others 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).