

Poetry Prompts: Week 65

Drawing

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 65 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. This week Joseph Coelho was joined by a special guest – author and illustrator Dapo Adeola. In the video, Joe and Dapo drew pictures and wrote poems about these. Drawing can provide us with excellent ideas to inspire our writing and is a wonderful skill in itself. Here is a poem by Joe all about the experience of drawing.

Look at the poem:

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

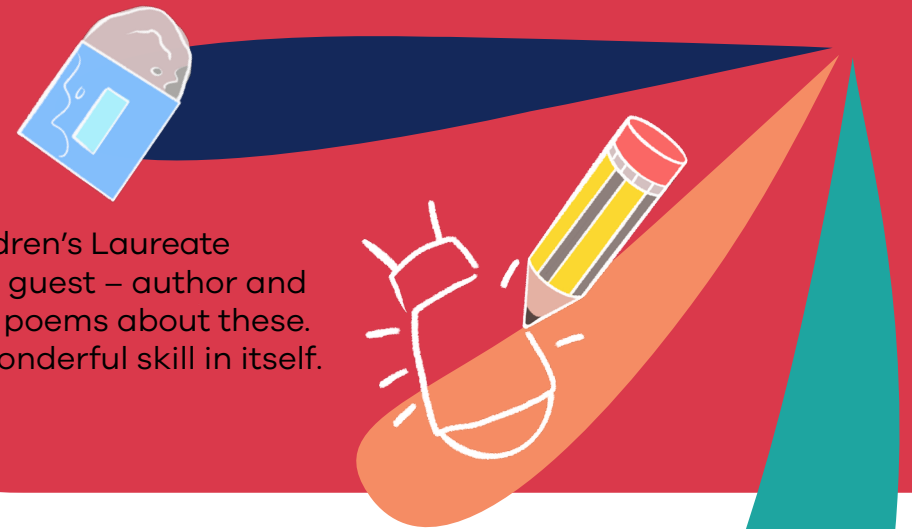
Drawing

Paperclip tracing paper over favourite picture-book page.
Sharpen the nib to nothingness.
Press with the weight of a gasp.

Whisper the tip over the tundra.
Let the lead run:
a scratching black stream
flowing into forms, pooling into shades.
An eye, a back curve, a horizon.

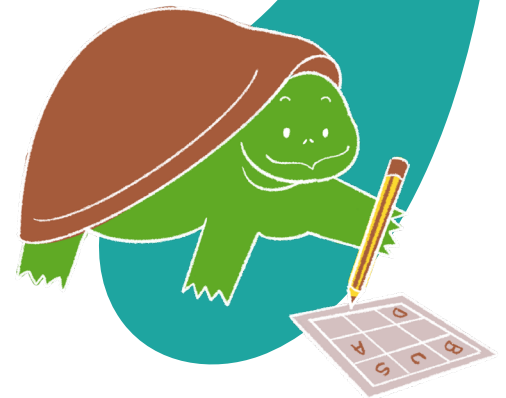
Migrate the sound-pouring voice to other landscapes.
A word bubble, the pillow curve of letters, the sought-after full-stop.

Bend the mist of tracing paper over, reveal the original ink.
Compare it to your lead work, search out missing lines, forgotten shades, hidden marks...



Trace.
Copy.
Change.
Add.
Rub out.

Draw



From *Werewolf Club Rules* by Joseph Coelho
(Frances Lincoln, 2014)



Think about the poem:

Consider the poem you just heard or read. What happened in the poem? What exactly was the narrator doing? What did it make you think about? How did it make you feel? What made you feel this way?

Re-read the poem again. What images stay in your mind as you read it again? Why do you think this is? What do you think the narrator of the poem was tracing a picture of? What words or phrases made you think this?

Look at the language:

- The poem contains many words that are specific to the act of drawing. Are there any words that you haven't heard before or that you are unsure of the meaning of? **Use a pen or pencil to underline these.** What do you think they might mean? What makes you think this? Use a dictionary, either a physical one if you have one to hand, or an online one like: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/browse/dictionary>.
- There are lots of verbs in the poem that describe the different actions taking place as the narrator draws. Can you see these? **Use a pen or pencil to circle any verbs you find.** What kinds of actions are described? How do these words add to your understanding of how the artist is working?

Perform the poem:

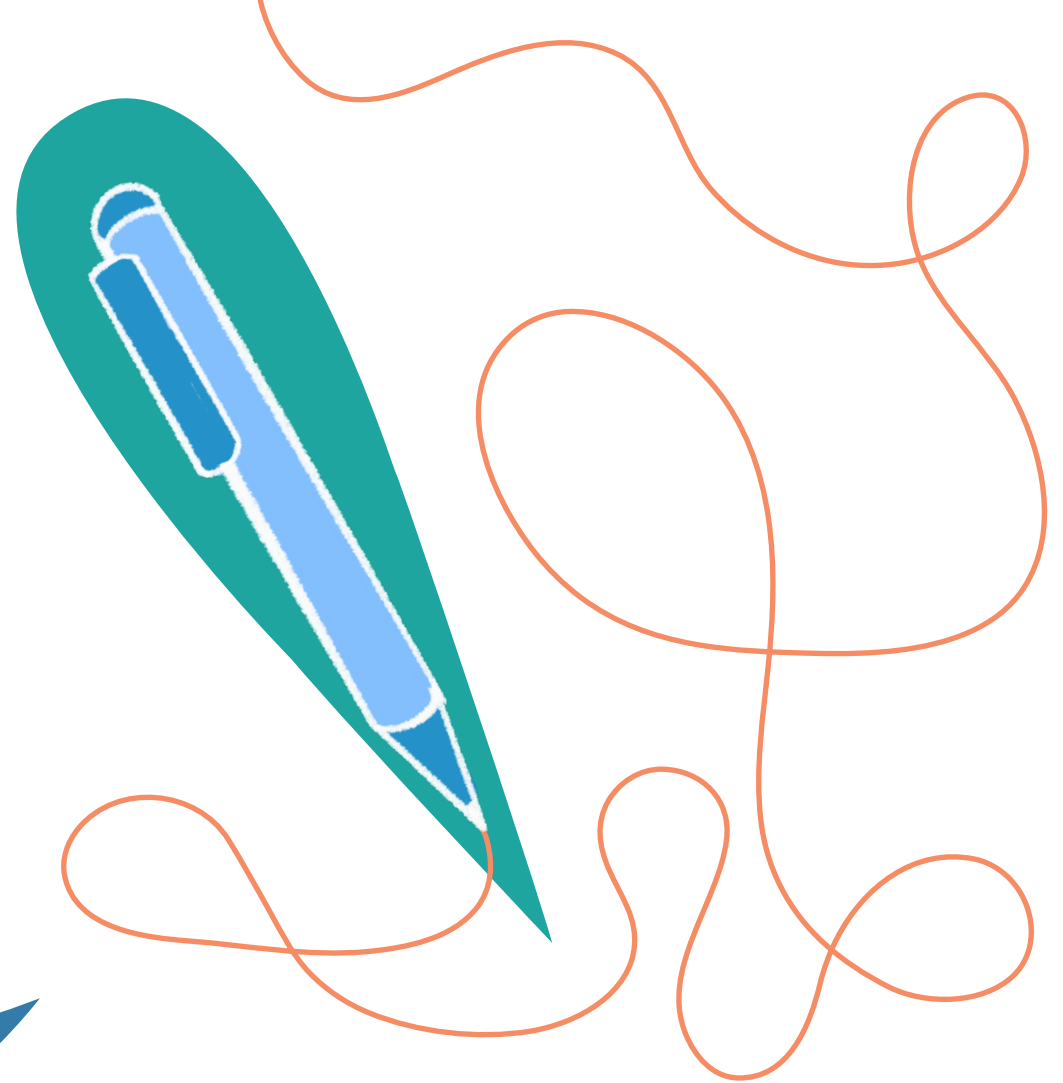
- Think about how you might **bring the story behind the poem to life in a performance of the poem.** Do you think the person is drawing quickly or slowly? Or does it change throughout? How will this affect the pace of your performance? Will some parts be faster or slower? Do you think this is a loud or quiet activity? How might you draw on this as you perform?
- Consider all the verbs used in the poem. These might direct you in **how you choose to use your voice or in considering actions to include.** 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 did your audience get about this moment from the way you performed the poem? What did they think you did that was most effective?



Write your own!

- Take a piece of paper and any drawing materials that you have to hand and **spend some time doing some drawing yourself**. You might trace a picture in a book or magazine as we saw in the original poem, or you might have an idea of something to draw for yourself. If you're having trouble coming up with an idea, you could **start by thinking about a theme** – like Joe and Dapo did with computer games in the video.
- Think about the **actions and feelings that were associated with your drawing**. What materials did you use? What did you do? How did you do it? How did it feel as you were creating your drawing? What words and phrases might help to describe this moment and the act of drawing for someone else?
- Begin to note down a few words, phrases or lines about the moment, and then look at **how to bring these together in a draft of your own poem** to describe this moment for someone else. When you're happy with what you have drafted, **write it out in your best handwriting or type it up to share with your drawing**.

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



Find and explore more poems about Art and Design 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.