

Poetry Prompts: Week 12

Describing colours using words

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 12 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. This week's Poetry Prompt focussed on ways to describe colours using words. Sometimes colours can be associated with different feelings, as Joseph Coelho explores in this poem:



Read the poem:

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

A Rainbow Of Feelings

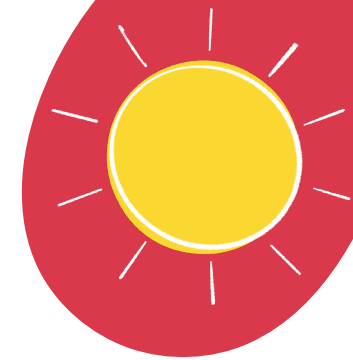
I have a rainbow inside me
every day new colours appear.
Sometimes red and angry.
I have a rainbow inside me.

Sometimes green with envy,
sometimes yellow with fear.
I have a rainbow inside me,
every day new colours appear.

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

Think about the poem:

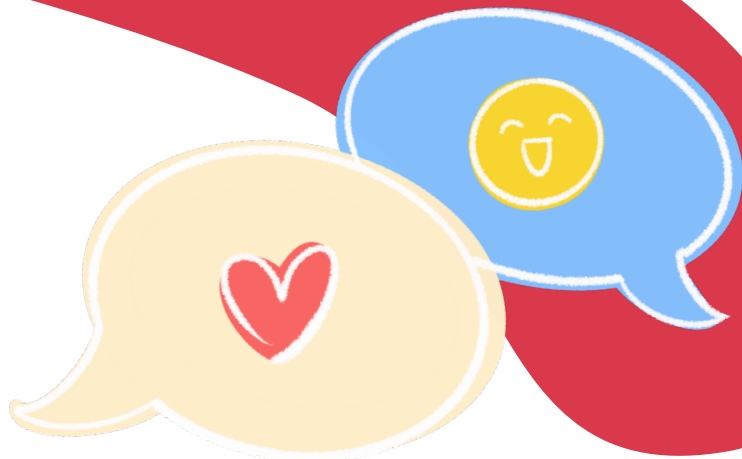
Think about the title 'A Rainbow Of Feelings'. Why do you think Joseph Coelho has chosen to describe feelings in this way? What different feelings can you name? What is it like to feel these things?



Consider the emotions that are discussed in the poem. Sometimes, feelings can make us feel good, but sometimes they don't make us feel so good. When do we see a rainbow? How are they formed? Most rainbows form when the sun's rays strike raindrops falling from faraway rain clouds.

Consider the opposition of the sun and the rain, and the beauty of the rainbow that is formed when they meet. What feelings might you associate with the rain? Which might you associate with the sun?

Why do you think it is important that we can express all these feelings, which create a rainbow inside us?

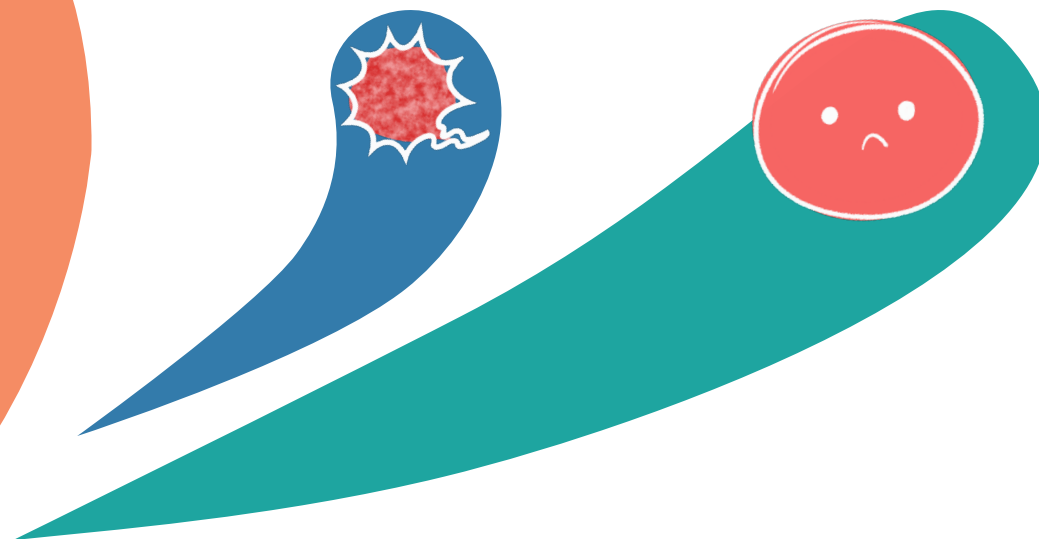
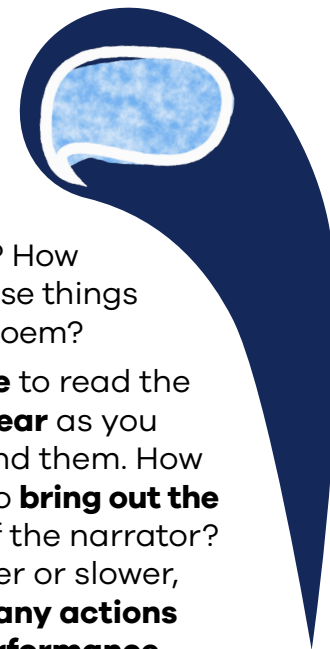


Look at the language:

- Read the poem again and **circle or underline any words or phrases** that relate to colours and feelings. Have you seen these connections before? Why do you think red is associated with anger? Have you heard the phrase 'yellow-bellied' to describe someone who is fearful? Or the phrase 'green with envy' to describe someone who is jealous? Can you **think of any other colours that are commonly associated with feelings?** What about blue? Do you know what it means to 'feel blue'?
- **Make a list** of other words to describe feelings you have had or that you know of. What colours might you associate with them? Or perhaps you could start with different colours. What feelings might you associate with them? **Explore different pairings** that you could use in your own writing.

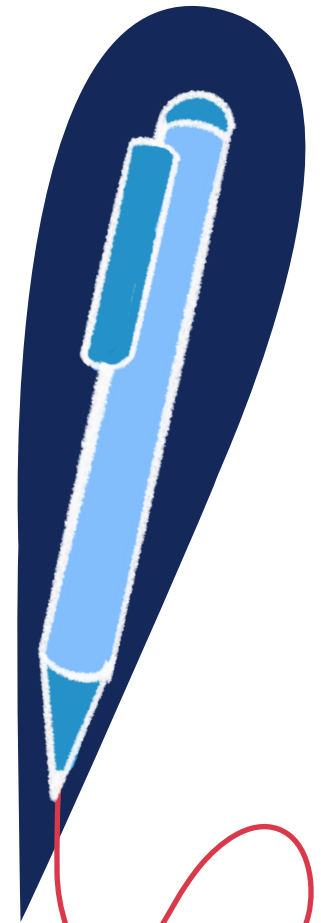
Perform the poem:

- The poem is written from a **first-person** perspective, which means the narrator, or the 'I' in the poem is **directly telling you** about them and their feelings. What feelings **do they experience** in the poem? How might **you share what it means** to feel these things with an audience when you perform the poem?
- Try out **different ways of using your voice** to read the poem. Make sure you **keep your words clear** as you perform, so your audience can understand them. How can you use your voice in different ways to **bring out the meaning of the words and the feelings** of the narrator? 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 is their impression of the narrator of the poem from your performance?



Write your own!

- After stepping into the shoes of the narrator and their feelings, now **take time to think about your own feelings**. What different feelings might you experience on different days? Have you had a day where a **specific event has made you feel a certain way**? How could you **describe your feelings** to someone else in writing? Could you associate any colours with the feelings you are thinking about? Or with a certain kind of weather?
- **Jot some initial ideas down** on a page, this might be some jottings about a particular memory of feeling a certain way. Consider **what made you feel like this**, how you **expressed your emotions** and **how the emotion passed**. You might find it helpful to **draw some pictures of yourself** expressing different feelings to spark your imagination. As you look at your drawings, **write down words and phrases** that help to describe this in more detail.
- Use your thoughts to try and **draft some verses** of your own. You might use colours to describe a range of feelings you've had, like Joseph Coelho does in the original poem. **You might use a metaphor** based on the weather, like the rainbow to describe the feelings or feeling you are writing about. If you're angry, you might describe it as having a storm cloud over your head; lightning might strike when your frustration explodes. If you're joyful, you might describe it as having the sunshine inside you; rays might burst out as your joy intensifies.
- When you've finished, **try reading your poem aloud** to explore how to use your voice to bring out the feelings you've described. You might also want to **type it out and illustrate it** to share what the feelings might look like in a drawing.



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

Find and explore more poems about feelings 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 clpe.org.uk.