

Kind actions and deeds

This sheet is to accompany Poetry Prompt 45 that features Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022–2024 Joseph Coelho. This week, Joseph Coelho was joined by Nicola Davies in his poetry prompt video. They wrote poems about kind actions and deeds. Here's another poem about an everyday act of kindness by Joseph Coelho which you can use as inspiration for your own poem...

Read the poem:

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

Blow A Kiss

Blow a kiss,
catch a kiss
when we are apart.

Blow a kiss,
catch a kiss
put it in your heart.

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

Think about the poem:

Think about the poem you just read or heard. What did it make you think about? How did it make you feel? What made you feel this way?

Consider the meaning behind the words. Why might you blow a kiss to someone? Have you ever done this or has anyone done this to you? Who do you think these words might be directed to? Who might be saying them?





Look at the language:

- Read the poem again for yourself. As you read, circle or underline the rhyming words in the poem. What do you notice about the **similarities and differences** in the two words? How are they spelled? Is the '**art**' rhyme spelled the same in each word?
- Look at these words again. **Can you think of any more words which rhyme with apart and heart?** Make a list of these and look carefully at how they are spelled. Can you see any patterns? Which spelling is the most common?
- Think about the lines that these rhyming words appear in: '**when we are apart**' and '**put it in your heart**'. What might these lines **tell us about the story behind the poem?** What might they suggest about why the kiss is being blown, who it might be to, and what they might hope to say by performing this action?

Perform the poem:

- As well as rhyme, this poem contains **repetition, which makes the poem easy to remember and fun to perform.** Read the poem aloud a few times to yourself to become familiar with the rhythm of the words, thinking how this might support you in performing the poem to an audience.
- Think about how you might **bring the experience described and the emotions behind it to life** as you perform. How will you use your voice, your facial expressions and your body language to tell the story behind 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? How will you convey the emotions behind the words?
- Rehearse your performance a few times until you are happy with it, then **perform it to someone else.** What did they think of your performance? What did they think was most engaging? Would they make any suggestions if you were to perform it again?



Write your own!

- In the poetry prompt video, Joseph Coelho and Nicola Davies talked about **kind actions and deeds**. Blowing a kiss to someone to show you care could also be an act of kindness.
- Think about the **structure of the original poem**, including the **rhyme and repetition**. Could you use this pattern to write about another kind action or deed? What might you do as an act of kindness – like blowing a kiss? Why might you do it – like showing someone you care when they are apart from you?
- Consider how these things might fit into a poem of your own with a similar structure, e.g.

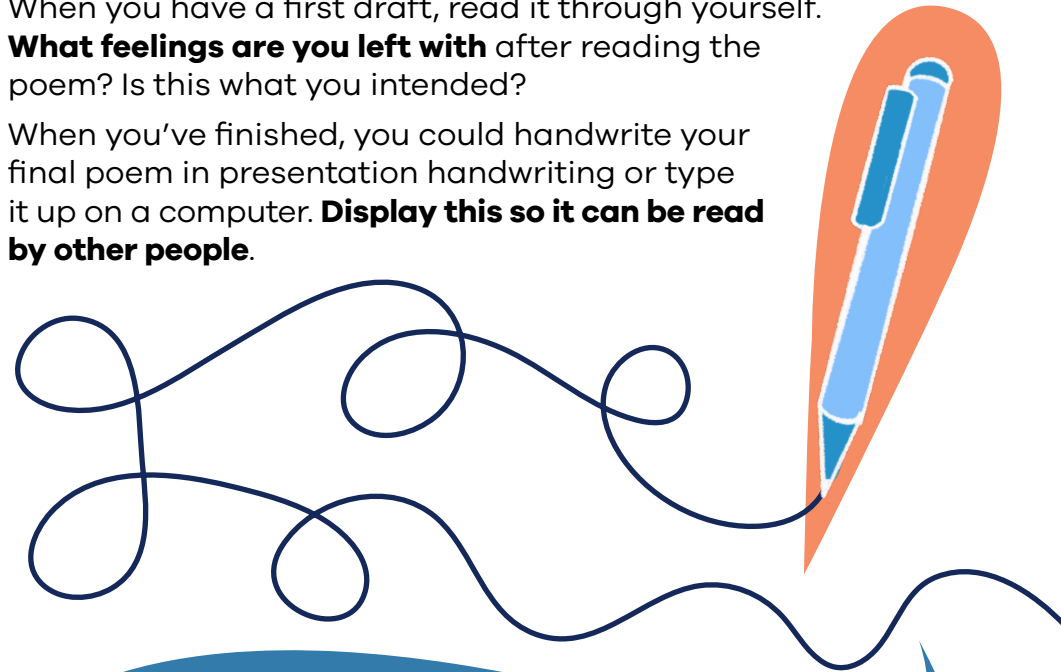
**Take some time,
Give some time,
Show a friend you care.**

**Take some time,
Give some time,
Let them know you're there.**

- Think about how the words you choose **fit the rhythmic pattern** of the original poem and what rhyming words you use to connect the action with the intention behind it. If you're struggling to think of rhyming words that make sense, you could try using a rhyming dictionary, such as: <https://www.rhymezone.com/>.

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

- You could also choose to write a poem about an act of kindness **without following the pattern** of the original poem. You might choose not to make your poem rhyme, and write it as free verse. You might choose not to use repetition and rhythm. You might want to write a longer poem about the act of kindness, what your intentions were and maybe even include the impact it made on the person the action was directed at.
- When you have a first draft, read it through yourself. **What feelings are you left with** after reading the poem? Is this what you intended?
- When you've finished, you could handwrite your final poem in presentation handwriting or type it up on a computer. **Display this so it can be read by other people.**



Find and explore more rhyming poetry 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.