

Week 11

VIPERS and ENGLISH



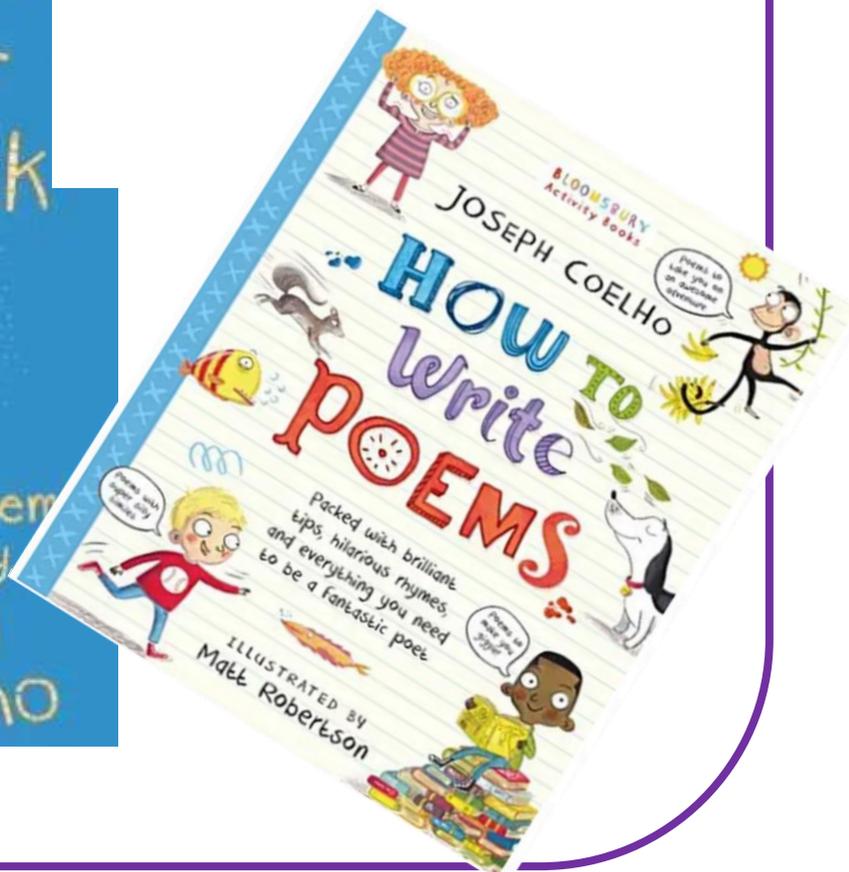
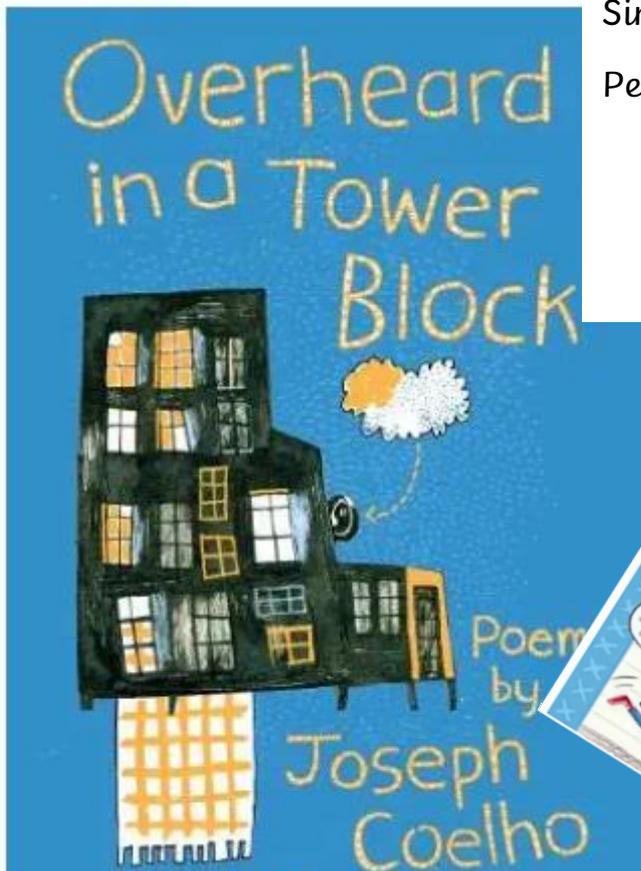
For the next few weeks, we are going to continue to read and perform poems by Joseph Coelho and others. Find out more about him here:

https://www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com/portfolio_page/how-to-write-poems/

During the next two weeks we are going to be looking at poetic devices- the language and tools poets use to craft their poems and create effects.

These will include:

Rhyme Repetition Call and repeat
 Similes Metaphor Alliteration
 Personification Onomatopoeia



Monday: VIPERS

Vocabulary

Infer

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Summarise



Overall aims of this teaching sequence.

- To explore and understand the importance of poetry as a genre.
- To know how to listen and respond to a wide range of poems from a single poet collection.
- To understand that poems are written for different reasons.
- To interpret poems for performance.
- To gain and maintain the interest of the listener through effective performance of poems.
- To be able to use art as a means of responding to a poem, visualising and inferring and extending and enriching language.
- To recognise figurative language in poetry and interpret its effect on the reader.
- To draft, compose and write poems based on real and personal experiences using language with intent for effect on the reader.

Poets should always read their poems aloud and the best way to appreciate their work is to hear them reading.

[Read this poem aloud and then listen to it here](#)

A Message from Your Brain

Hello, it's me! The brain in your head.
You can't see me but trust me, I'm there.
I'm hidden in bone, all cosy and warm –
If I were out, then most people would stare!

I wanted to pass on a message to you
About learning and challenge and failing.
I know that it's hard when you start a new thing.
Who said learning was always plain sailing?

Learning new things can be fun and exciting;
New skills help you to change and grow.
But sometimes, new skills can be hard to pick up.
Trust me – I'm a brain, I should know.

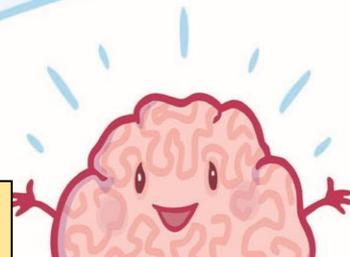
I'm a bit like a muscle; I like to work out,
Exercising new thoughts and ideas.
But the thought of a challenge should not make you sad,
Or fill you up with panic and fear.

I know that sometimes work can seem far too much,
But it's possible! Honest – I know
That if you keep on trying and do not give up,
You'll get there and your brain will grow.

Growth mindset is something that we should all have;
It's important to keep you succeeding.
So keep your mind open and try some new things,
Because all of us brains need a feeding!

If something goes wrong, then it's not a big deal –
Don't panic or give up or stop.
You can do it; as long as you give it your best,
With practice, you'll end up on top!

1. Write down two rhyming words from the first verse.
2. Write down three more pairs of rhyming words from the poem.
3. Write down any patterns that you can see in the position of the rhyming words.
4. Write down as many things as you can that show that this text is a poem.



Monday : English

VIPERS continued...

5. Why does the brain say that it is 'a bit like a muscle'?
6. What three things does the brain say you should not do when something goes wrong?
7. Find and copy a rhetorical question from the poem.
8. What do you think the poet means when they say that 'all of us brains need a feeding'?
9. Why is the poem written in first person?
10. What do you think the purpose of this poem is? Who is the intended audience?

Abstract nouns refer to things that you cannot touch- they are intangible. They are concepts or ideas, feelings or qualities such as:

- Beauty
- Honesty
- Enthusiasm
- Horror

I smell like the promise of baked bread.
I am sweet and tasty on the tongue like a perfectly ripe apple.
I look like a rainbow - a sky palette of potential.
I sound like the rocking base line of a beat about to drop.
I feel soft like warm cat fur.
What am I?

???

Abstract nouns are words that refer to feelings or concepts like hope, dreams, fear, confusion.

Make a collection of as many abstract nouns as you can think of. Can you find 30?

Pick an abstract noun. Imagine what it would be like to smell it, taste it, feel it, see it, hear it...

Write a poem about your abstract noun without saying what it is. Read it to someone else, can they guess what it is?

Tuesday: VIPERS

Vocabulary

Infer

Predict

Explain

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Summarise



Read this poem before you listen to Joseph Coelho perform it. Then try to mimic him! Good luck!

[This is the link to the performance](#)

Timmy Tell-Tale

Timmy Tell-Tale
would tip tap on teacher
with the tip of two fingers
and tell terrific tales
of Tara and Tia talking
when teacher was teaching
or Taylor and Todd typing
when teacher told them not to.

Timmy Tell-Tale
would thunder "I'm telling"
when Tina tickled Travis
and tell teacher he would
with the tip tap of two fingers
and a terrible tale of...

"Teacher I told them not to tickle
throughout all your teaching
and I told them I'm telling."

Timmy Tell-Tale
told so many tales
of talkers and ticklers
and tiptoeing tricksters
that teacher got so tired
of Timmy's tall tales
that when Timmy told them...

Teacher told Timmy a tale
of Timmy in **TROUBLE!**

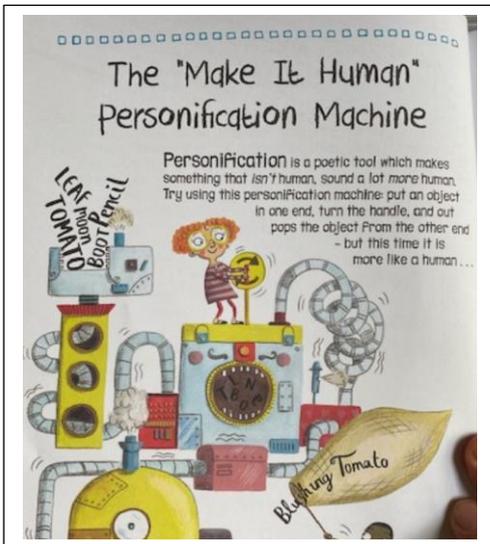


1. What do you call the techniques of repeating the initial sounds of words in a sentence?
2. Who was Timmy?
3. Who did Timmy tell tales about and why?
4. Why do you think the teacher told Timmy he was in trouble?
5. Do you think you would enjoy being in a class with Timmy? Why?

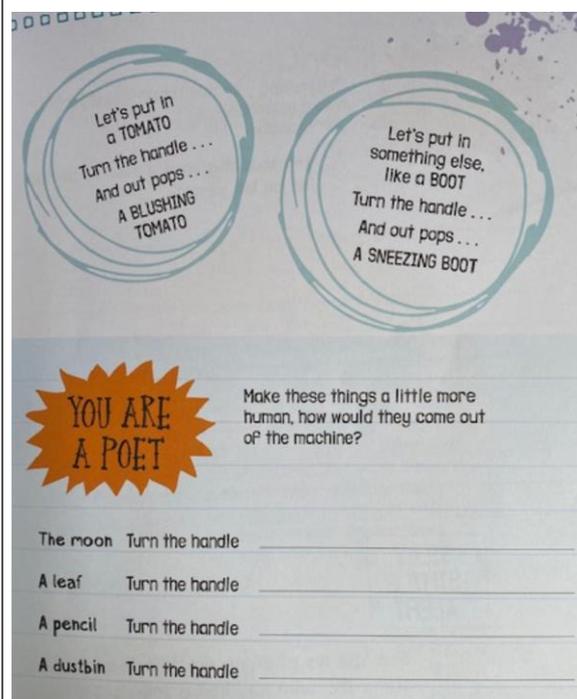
Tuesday : English

Personification

is when you give an animal or object qualities or abilities that only a human can have. This creative literary tool adds interest and fun to poems or stories. **Personification** is what writers use to bring non-human things to life.



Rita heard the last piece of pie *calling* her name.
My alarm clock *yells* at me to get out of bed every morning.
The avalanche *devoured* anything standing in its way.
The door *protested* as it opened slowly.
My house is a friend who *protects* me.
The moon *played hide and seek* with the clouds.
The approaching car's headlights *winked* at me.



City Jungle

Rain splinters town.

**Lizard cars cruise by;
their radiators grin.**

**Thin headlights stare –
shop doorways keep
their mouths shut.**

**At the roadside
hunched houses cough.**

**Newspapers shuffle by,
hands in their pockets.
The gutter gargles.**

**A motorbike snarls;
Dustbins flinch.**

**Streetlights bare
their yellow teeth.
The motorway's
cat-black tongue
lashes across
the glistening back
of the tarmac night.**

Identify all the personification in this poem, The City Jungle.

Thursday: VIPERS

The Great Water Giant

**The Great Water Giant
Has finished his bath.
He pulls the huge plug
Out of the clouds.
He roars his thunderous laugh
And a wet slippery waterfall
Spills out of a squelchy sky.
'Look out below' he seems to
shout
as the water
Splashes, splashes, plishes,
ploses, gushes, siushes,
And soaks deep into the thirsty
earth.**

by Ian Souter

The Great Water Giant

1. What do you think the Great Water Giant is?
2. Identify three examples of personification used by the author.
3. Name another poetic device used for effect by the author.
4. Can you find an example of alliteration in the poem?



Binley House

TV aerials like dead branches,
Satellite dishes like dead eyes,
Rusted, but still they stared.
It was a zombie of a block

The bin chute
Made the mouth of the block
Every day we fed it...

Dinners left to go stone cold,
bags of clothes from missed fathers,
tissues soaked in tears.

The cold whistle of wind
From the corridors of Binley House
Became the block's rumble of hunger.

We fed the block our lives:
The good times, the bad times,
Evenings spent with friends who lived
Above, below and side by side

Binley House is a real towerblock in Roehampton, not too far from Croydon. Joesh Coelho wrote his book of poems called 'Overheard in a Tower Block' based on this building. Read the poem Binley House

Gazing at stars from five storeys up
Smelling the bins from five storeys below
Overheard arguments
Overheard laughter

We fed the block our lives
As it swelled
Its monstrous city around us.

Binley House

How does the poem make you feel? Do you think Coelho has good memories of Binley House? Find 5 examples of how he uses personification to make the building sound alive.

Thursday and Friday:

Write your own personification poem

Last Night, I Saw the City Breathing

Last night, I saw the City breathing

Great Gusts of people,

Rushing in and

Puffing out

Of Station's singing mouths

Last night, I saw the City laughing,

Take-Aways got the giggles,

Cinemas split their sides,

And Living Rooms completely creased
themselves!

Last night, I saw the City dancing.

Shadows were cheek to cheek with brick walls,

Trains wiggled their hips all over the place,

And the trees

in the breeze,

Put on a show for an audience of windows!

Last night, I saw the city starving,

Snaking Avenue smacked her lips

And swallowed seven roundabouts!

Fat office blocks got stuffed with light

And gloated over empty parking lots.

Last night, I saw the City dancing.

Shadows were cheek to cheek with brick walls,

Trains wiggled their hips all over the place,

And the trees

in the breeze,

Put on a show for an audience of windows!

[Listen to this poem](#)

Last night, I saw the city starving,

Snaking Avenue smacked her lips

And swallowed seven roundabouts!

Fat office blocks got stuffed with light

And gloated over empty parking lots.

Last night, I saw the City crying.

Cracked windows poured falling stars

And the streets were paved with mirrors.

Last night, I saw the City sleeping

Roads night-dreamed,

Street Lamps quietly boasted,

'When I grow up, I'm going to be a star!'

And the Wind,

Like a cat,

Snoozed in the nooks of roofs.

Make notes of some of
the ideas you think you
could use yourself

Watch and listen as Pi Corbett performs his poem,
Goodnight Stroud.

At the end of the video he tells you how he got his inspiration and ideas for the poem.



Now, inspired by a view you know very well- a favourite place or the view from your window, write your own personification poem.

Remember to perform your poem to check how well it is going.