

# Year 7 – Poetry – English Knowledge Organiser

## Expectations and content

### What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

- This unit focuses on metaphors in poetry. All of the poems in the unit are based around the theme of the natural world. We want students' knowledge and analysis of metaphor to be precise and insightful. To do this, we use specific language to introduce parts of metaphor to students. This unit provides a grounding for studying poetry as they move through the school, and will give pupils an enjoyment of the poems studied.

### Key terminology taught:

- Compare
- Creator
- Elusive
- Ground
- Literal
- Metaphor
- Rhyme
- Sentences
- Stanza
- Tenor
- Topic
- Vehicle
- Verse

## If your child needs support

### Suggested activities to help:

#### Vocabulary help:

- Use a dictionary to find definitions of the key vocabulary in the poems if your child is unsure
- Write sentences about the individual poems using the key vocabulary
- Create a crossword where the answers are the key vocabulary

#### Terminology help:

- Create flashcards to help you remember the definitions of the key terminology
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> has resources to support learning of English subject terminology

#### General help:

- Look for readings of some of the poems on YouTube- hearing them read by the poet can make more sense.
- If your child is a little daunted by poetry then encourage them to think of the poems as compact stories. Put them into storyboards like this, detailing what happens in each stanza with key images.



- Encourage your child to think of stories where the meaning is not always obvious- metaphors are not just found.

## If your child needs extension

### Questions to discuss with your child:

- Why do you think poetry is written?
- Why is it important to hear poems read?
- Why do you think writers might write one thing but use it to mean another?
- **Challenging activities to complete:**
- Encourage your child to create a summary of how metaphors are created in a poem, and see if they can apply this to a poem of their choice.
- Your child could research other techniques that poets can use in writing.
- Encourage your child to have a go at writing their own poem including a metaphor.

### Suggested further reading:

Students will read the poems contained in the poetry booklet, but it would be wonderful to gain some experience of poetry more widely:

- *Collected Poems by Edward Lear*
- BBC Teach has some excellent readings of poetry:  
[BBC Teach Poetry Readings](#)  
[BBC Teach Understanding Poetry](#)
- *Selected Poems*, Michael Rosen
- *Death of a Naturalist*, Seamus Heaney
- *Children's Poems*, Christina Rossetti
- *Mean Time*, Carol Ann Duffy
- *Ego-Tripping*, Nikki Giovanni