THE POETRY SOCIETY

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KEY STAGE	AGE	
KS1	5–7	
KS2	7–11	✓
KS3	11–14	
KS4	14–16	
KS5	16–18	

AT A GLANCE

- FEELINGS & EMOTION
- FRIENDS & FAMILY
- PLAYING WITH LANGUAGE
- MEMORY
- PATTERNS

POETRYCLASS: FRESH IDEAS FOR POETRY LEARNING FROM THE POETRY SOCIETY

FAVOURITE THINGS

BY PHIL BOWEN

Read and discuss the poem *Lauren* overleaf with the children. It was written by Barry Turrell at the age of nine.

Getting started

Give out the worksheet and ask the children to fill in the boxes with their current favourite things. Some may need more explanation than others. You could refer back to the poem *Lauren* to give an example of an emotion: the description of 'the moment I get my sums right'.

Finding inspiration

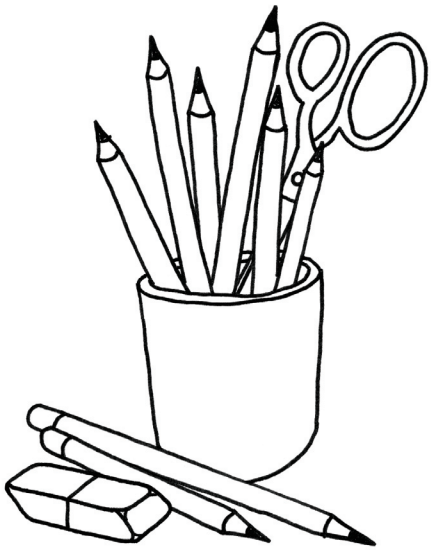
Now tell the children that they are going to make their favourite person the subject of the poem they are about to write and that they will use some (or all) of their responses to the questions to describe that person. Look at the poet's tip and emphasise that they could include other things not on the list in their descriptions.

Using examples

Before the children start writing their poems, discuss three or four other short examples from the exercise briefly pinpointing certain words, images, moods, etc, to help them flesh their favourite things out with description.

Perform and review

Once the children have written their poems, invite them to read them out loud. Then listen and comment.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Y3	TO COLLECT SUITABLE WORDS AND PHRASES, IN ORDER TO WRITE POEMS AND SHORT DESCRIPTIONS; DESIGN SIMPLE PATTERNS WITH WORDS, USE REPETITIVE PHRASES; WRITE IMAGINATIVE COMPARISONS
Y4	TO WRITE POEMS BASED ON PERSONAL OR IMAGINED EXPERIENCE, LINKED TO POEMS READ

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LAUREN

You're a new daisy
that's come up at night,
your skin is
a silk cover rubbed
against my hand.

You're a moon
drifting through frozen air,
the lady who helps me
when I'm hurt. You are
cream just whipped.

You're a red lipped flower,
the bit of butter
melting on my potato,
you're the hot water in my
bath, rushing around me.

You are god talking
quietly to horses,
a rainbow in the sky.
You're the moment
I get my sums right.

BARRY TURRELL

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of WHSmith Young Writers Competition

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FAVOURITE THINGS

1 Write down some of your favourite things in the boxes below. What is their smell, taste and appearance? How do they make you feel?

FAVOURITE COLOUR

FAVOURITE FOOD

FAVOURITE DRINK

FAVOURITE FEELING / EMOTION

FAVOURITE MATERIAL / CLOTHING

FAVOURITE MUSIC

FAVOURITE PERSON

FAVOURITE PLACE

2 Write a poem about your favourite person using the descriptions of your favourite things.

POET'S TIP

You can use any favourites you like in your poem – they don't have to come from the list you've already made. You could think about your favourite day, season, animal or flower – or anything else!

NAME:

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