

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

AT A GLANCE
• CONFIDENCE
• PLAYING WITH LANGUAGE
• LITERACY
• STRUCTURE
• RELUCTANT WRITERS

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POETRYCLASS: FRESH IDEAS FOR POETRY LEARNING FROM THE POETRY SOCIETY

HOW TO MAKE A POEM (BLUE PETER STYLE)

BY CORAL RUMBLE

I devised the writing exercise on the accompanying activity sheet for junior school children, and have also used it in summer schools with Year 6/7 children struggling with literacy. It is designed to aid organisation of thought and helps reluctant writers to break down the writing 'task' into manageable bites.

Get prepared

Make sure each child has his or her own poem-making kit (a pot, e.g. an empty yoghurt pot, scissors, a pen and a copy of the accompanying activity sheet). Ask them to cut along the lines on the sheet so that they have 16 slips of paper.

Collecting ideas

Ask the children to decide on a subject they would really like to write a poem about, and to write all their ideas – lines, phrases, similes – on the slips of paper. They should use a new slip of paper for every idea and collect them all in the pot. When the pot is full,

ask them to empty it out and, treating the pieces of paper like a jigsaw puzzle, they should play around with the order until they are happy.

Develop into your poem

Now direct them to the poet's tip and ask them to take each idea in order and expand it into a complete line – and there's their poem!

Have fun!

There's obviously much scope for fun with this exercise, and reluctant writers forget that they are 'writing' a poem as they concentrate hard on 'making' one.



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Y6 LIST BRIEF PHRASES AND WORDS AND TO EXPERIMENT BY TRIMMING OR EXTENDING SENTENCES TO PRODUCE POLISHED POETRY THROUGH REVISION, E.G. DELETING WORDS, ADDING WORDS, CHANGING WORDS, REORGANISING WORDS AND LINES, EXPERIMENTING WITH FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE TO REVIEW AND EDIT WRITING TO PRODUCE A FINAL FORM TO PRODUCE REVISED POEMS FOR READING ALOUD INDIVIDUALLY

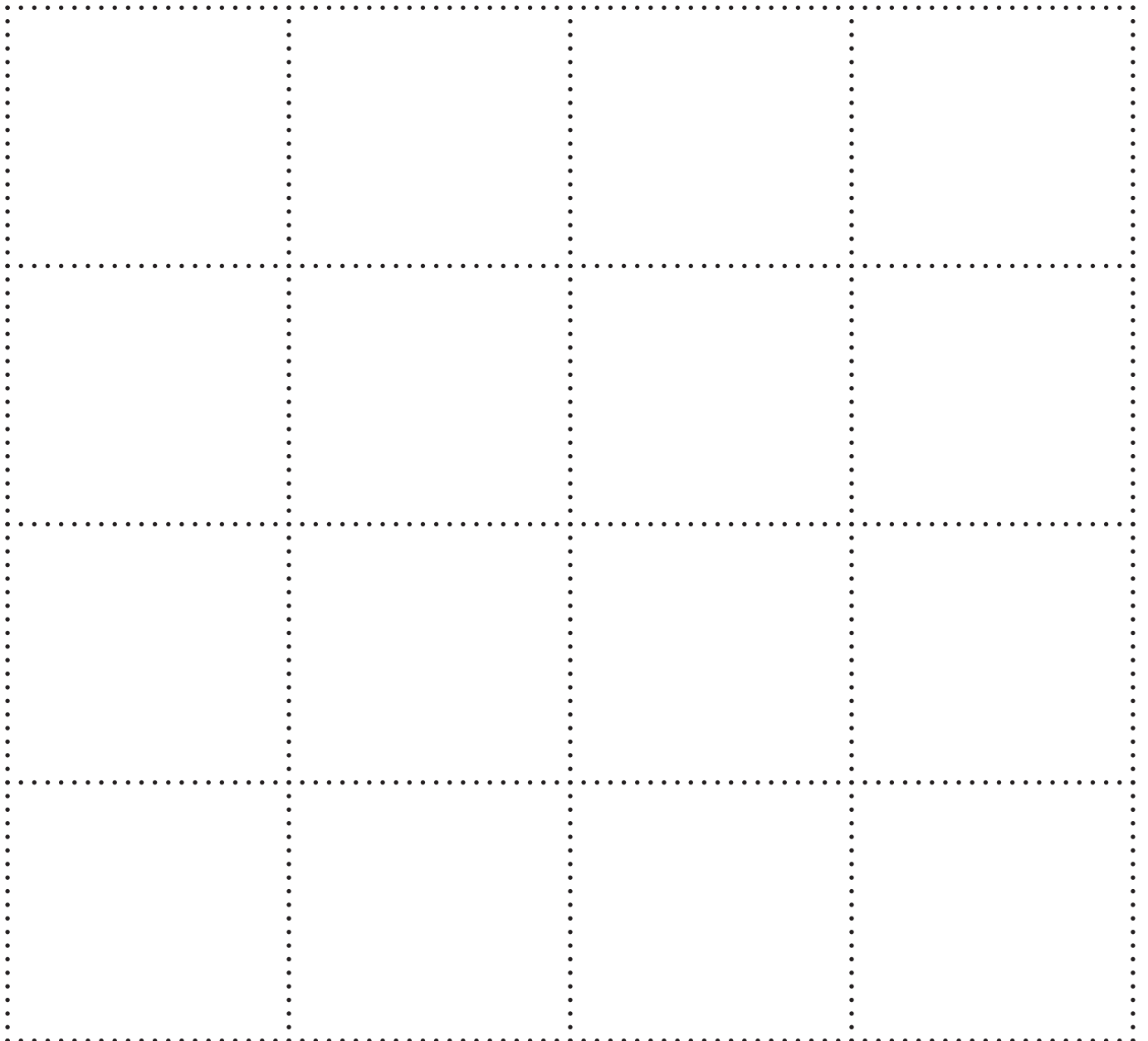
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HOW TO MAKE A POEM

(BLUE PETER STYLE)

1 Cut along these lines so that you have 16 slips of paper.

2 Decide on a subject you would really like to write a poem about. Write all your ideas – words, lines, phrases, similes – on the slips of paper. Use a new slip of paper for every idea and collect them all in your pot.



HOW TO MAKE A POEM

(BLUE PETER STYLE)

3 When your pot is full, empty out your ideas and put the slips of paper together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Put your ideas in the order you'd like them to appear in your poem. Move the pieces around until you are happy with the order.

4 Now take each slip in order and expand your words and phrases into complete lines.

There you have it –
your very own poem!



POET'S TIP

Check to see if you need to add or take away words so that the lines link together.

NAME:
