

M is for... Mix it up

A KS3/KS4 activity by the Poetry Society & Southbank Centre

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Poets often spend a lot of time thinking about how to structure their poems and the order in which they will reveal information to us. Thinking about this can be an interesting way to begin exploring a poem.

Begin by photocopying a poem or poems for your class and then cutting them up so that each stanza is on a different slip of paper. If you have shorter poems try this with individual lines or couplets.

Give these out to the class, or to small groups, and ask them to arrange them in the order they like, discussing their choices.

Read out the different versions and discuss how they arrived at each different order.

Remind students that as long as the poem makes sense for them there is no right or wrong answer.

Some useful poems to try:

- **Fishbones Dreaming** [↗](#)
by Matthew Sweeney
- **Because I could not stop for Death** [↗](#)
by Emily Dickinson
- **The Accident** [↗](#)
by Tallulah Hutson
- **Reach/Throw/Wade/Row** [↗](#)
by Phoebe Stuckes
- **Fire Knows** [↗](#)
by Jesse Rodrigues