This poetry-making activity builds on the idea that, throughout the ages, humans have represented natural phenomena as people in order to help understand them, e.g. the thunder becomes Thor and the rumblings beneath the ground become trolls.

**Personification**

Ask the students to imagine the weather as a warrior. Encourage them to build a visual image of that warrior in their mind’s eye.

**Forming descriptions**

Using the activity sheet, ask them to make lists of different words:

1. to describe that warrior, e.g. fierce, wild, mad or crazed and including similes e.g. berserk as a rabid terrier;
2. of types of bad weather e.g. snow, rain, hail, sleet, blizzard;
3. of the kind of weapons that a warrior might have e.g. swords, spears, arrows, bullets (the kinds of weapons will depend on the warrior).

Direct the students to the poet’s tip and ask them to combine words from the lists to create a weather warrior.

Then, adding local place names, they are ready to put the parts all together, e.g. ‘Rain as wild as an angry boar marching down North Street’.

**Structure**

Suggest that their poem starts on the outskirts of the town and moves towards the centre, describing an invasion. They could include different military scenarios. What might an invading army do? Set up roadblocks, perhaps – this could be snowdrifts, or the wind could rip the flag from the flagpole. Encourage them to use the language of the military, e.g. ‘Fog occupies the town square’.

**Mood and metaphor**

Once the first section has been established ask the students to think about how they will respond to the weather warrior – perhaps they will fight back? They could make lists of the weapons they could use to retaliate and resist the invasion of bad weather, e.g. ‘We armoured ourselves in thick coats’; ‘We put down salt traps’; ‘We dug out the car and reclaimed the streets one by one’.

The ending might declare their triumph over adversity, perhaps with a statement along the lines of ‘And slowly we won back our world’.

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**WE’LL WEATHER THE WEATHER**

**BY DAVE REEVES**
WE’LL WEATHER THE WEATHER

1. Imagine the weather as a warrior. Make lists of ideas on the shields:

ADJECTIVES AND SIMILES

TYPES OF BAD WEATHER

THE WARRIOR’S WEAPONS

DESCRIBING THE WARRIOR

2. Make sentences combining words from your lists to create a weather warrior.

POET’S TIP
Be bold in the combinations you create, e.g. swords of rain.

3. Now start to shape your poem. Describe the invasion of the weather warrior. In the second half of the poem, describe how you will retaliate. What weapons will you use? How will you defeat the warrior?

NAME: