

Poetry  
Spring Term 2A

## Focus

Reading skills

Writing skills

Y4

	Prepare poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding of intonation, tone, volume and action
	Securely recognise different forms of poetry
<b>Composition and Text Structure</b>	Adopt features of existing texts to shape own writing
	Build varied vocabulary and sentences structures
	Organise paragraphs around a theme
	In narratives, create settings, character and plot
	In non narratives, use simple organisational devices
<b>Vocabulary and Grammar</b>	Suggest improvements to grammar and vocabulary
	Proof read for spelling and punctuation errors
	Read aloud using appropriate intonation, tone and volume
	Use a range of conjunctions to extend sentence with more than one clause
	Choose appropriate nouns or pronouns for clarity and cohesion
	Using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause
	Use fronted adverbials
	Understand standard English verb inflections
	Extend noun phrase, including with prepositions
<b>Punctuation</b>	Use and punctuate direct speech
<b>Handwriting</b>	Uses appropriate handwriting joins, including unjoined letters
<b>Spelling</b>	Often spell words that are misspelt from the Y3/4 list
	Beginning to use a dictionary to check spellings
	Often uses the possessive apostrophe accurately with plurals
	Recognise the difference between plural and possessive -s

Tuesday

## Daily spelling practice





Look at these words. Can you spot which are spelled incorrectly?

centre busy potatose knowledge erly adress

On your whiteboard, write the correct spelling 5 times.  
Challenge: Write a sentence containing more than one of the words.



WALT: Prepare a poem to perform

-  I can read the poem aloud
-  I can read the poem clearly and confidently
-  I can read the poem, showing awareness of the meaning of the words
-  I can read the poem and vary my intonation, volume, pace and tone

Today we are going to practise reading and performing a poem about a river. What type of poem might it be?

What might the features of the text be?

WALT: Prepare a poem to perform

The poem is called *The River*  
and it is by Valerie Bloom

and, storytelling and singing – these are the memories of Jamaica that are woven into Valerie’s poetry. Older particularly important part of Jamaican family life because of the wisdom they have to impart. As a child, Valerie time with her grandmother, and remembers her in several of her poems.

writes some of her poetry in Jamaican dialect, or patois. If you don’t find it easy understand these poems when on the page, you will almost certainly find it much easier when you listen! Try ‘Two Seasons’. When Valerie first she was very struck by the weather, and this poem is about the difference between British and Jamaica to the way she gives character to the verbs – ‘tease’, ‘whisper’, ‘bubble’. Some of her poems use standard some use a mixture of the two.

an, poetry, music and dance are not seen as separate things – so a poem can also involve singing and Valerie’s poems draw on this Caribbean tradition, and many sound very musical. In fact most are written to be

is draw on Caribbean folk tradition, using riddles, question and answer and rap. Many have very regular rhyme – which makes them great to perform.



Let's listen to and read  
the poem

 Valerie Bloom reading

## WALT: Prepare a poem to perform

In pairs or groups of three you are going to practise reading and then performing the poem.

Think about:

volume: loud  
or quiet

pace: fast  
or slow

Which words will  
you emphasise?

tone: happy or sad,  
laughing or menacing

The meaning of  
the words

You don't have to learn it, but you shouldn't just read it... you are **PERFORMING!**

Wednesday



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busines hight interest favourite earthe extreme

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## WALT: Understand the features of a poem

### Features of poetry:

- ❖ **Repetition** - refers to the use of the same word or phrase multiple times.
- ❖ **Simile** - describes something by comparing it to something else, using like or as. E.g. Jess is as graceful as a gazelle.
- ❖ **Metaphors** - a word or a phrase used to describe something as if it were something else. E.g. Jess is dynamite.
- ❖ **Alliteration** - the occurrence of the same letter or sound, at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. e.g. the sweet, soulful birds sang.
- ❖ **Verbs** - a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence, e.g. walk, swim, hear, become etc.
- ❖ **Personification** - when you give an animal or object qualities or abilities that only a human can have. E.g. The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.

- ❖ **Rhyme** - two words that have the same ending sound.  
E.g. said, Fred or picked, licked

## *The River*

by Valerie Bloom

The River's a wanderer.  
A nomad, a tramp,  
He doesn't choose one place  
To set up his camp.

The River's a winder,  
Through valley and hill  
He twists and he turns,  
He just cannot be still.

The River's a hoarder,  
And he buries down deep  
Those little treasures  
That he wants to keep.

The River's a baby,  
He gungles and hums,  
And sounds like he's happily  
Sucking his thumbs.

The River's a singer,  
As he dances along,  
The countryside echoes  
The notes of his song.

The River's a monster  
Hungry and vexed,  
He's gobbled up trees  
And he'll swallow you next.

WALT: Understand the features of a poem

Let's find:

alliteration

repetition

personification

rhyme

verbs

simile or metaphor

Mark text together -  
stick in English books

# The River

by Valerie Bloom

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## ANSWERS

WALT: Understand the features of a poem

Let's find:

personification

repetition

alliteration

rhyme

verbs

simile or metaphor

Mark text together -  
stick in English books

# Independent Work:

## Complete challenges and stick in Reading Skills books.

### Mark together

**Red Challenge:**

Write **TRUE** or **FALSE** for each statement below.

1. The river is personified in the poem. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The river does not stay in the same place. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The hill is a winder. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Hoarders always throw away their things. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The river stops flowing every night. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The river flows away the treasure it buries. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Like a baby, the river gurgles. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The river makes unhappy sounds when humming. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The river can sing notes of its songs. \_\_\_\_\_
10. If one is vexed, one is annoyed. \_\_\_\_\_

**Yellow Challenge:**

Choose the words given to fit the numbered blank.

The river is given human qualities in the poem. As a wanderer, it \_\_\_\_\_ (1) from place to place. Sometimes it can be a \_\_\_\_\_ (2) and has to beg as it flows along. As it does not stay long in the same place, it does not set its \_\_\_\_\_ (3) anywhere. While flowing, it twists and \_\_\_\_\_ (4) through hills and valleys. Like any hoarder, it \_\_\_\_\_ (5) whatever treasures it comes across. It sometimes gurgles like a baby. When it does this, it makes \_\_\_\_\_ (6) sounds. However, the river can be a \_\_\_\_\_ (7) too for it \_\_\_\_\_ (8) people who fall into it.

beggar
monster
travels
camp
happy
turns
drowns
hides

**Green Challenge**

Read the poem "**The River**" by Valerie Bloom and identify keywords that show human qualities in each stanza.

Stanza 1	Stanza 2	<i>The River's a wanderer, A nomad, a tramp. He doesn't choose one place To set up his camp.</i>
Stanza 3	Stanza 4	
Stanza 5	Stanza 6	<i>The River's a hoarder, And he buries down deep Those little treasures That he wants to keep.</i>

*The River's a winder,  
Through valley and hill,  
He twists and he turns,  
He just cannot be still.*

*The River's a baby,  
He gurgles and hums,  
And sounds like he's happily  
sucking his thumbs.*

*The River's a singer,  
As he dances along,  
The countryside echoes  
The notes of his song.*

*The River's a monster  
Hungry and vexed,  
He's gobbled up trees  
And he'll swallow you next.*

**The River by Valerie Bloom**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday

## Daily spelling practice

Look at these words. Can you spot which are spelled incorrectly?

posess continue natral opposite perpose often

On your whiteboard, write the correct spelling 5 times.  
Challenge: Write a sentence containing more than one of the words.



WALT: Write a poem using personification

What do you think a river is like?

Watch the clips and make notes on  
your whiteboard



a runner? an explorer? a snake? a musician?

Create a mind map on paper - use Miss B's example if  
you are stuck:





WALT: Write a poem using personification

Depending on how much time the previous lesson took, this may be work for Week 5...



Watch the school versions of this poem. We are going to write our own version and perform it.

Look at Miss B's completed poem:

