



Lesson Plan to support the Together Competition

Objectives:

- To read and understand the structure of a range of poems
- To deepen understanding of the First World War, its impact and legacy
- To recognise a range of linguistic features used to create meaning in poetry, including simile, metaphor, alliteration, rhyme, personification, repetition.
- Learn how to choose words to explore and construct meaning

Resources:

There are a range of poems in the Never Such Innocence resource – request two free hardcopies by emailing enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com or download from the Never Such Innocence website www.neversuchinnocence.com. Page numbers referred to below are from the Never Such Innocence resource.

Classroom activities:

Option 1

Show pupils visual cues like pictures and paintings from various aspects of the First World War. Have your pupils work in groups to list words that describe how it makes them feel and words they could use to describe the picture. Share as a group, writing down new words as they hear them.

- Teachers might use this to stimulate specific useful phrases and words for thinking about the First World War: trenches, war, battle etc.
- Various evocative images can be found in the Never Such Innocence resource such as *Storm Troopers Advancing Under Gas* by Otto Dix on page 31, or the painting of an injured soldier on page 115.

Option 2

Read poems written by previous winners of the Never Such Innocence competition:

- See *What would they think?* By Emily Dutson (p4) and *War Zone* by Josh Carridge (p11) which are published in the 2015/16 Winners Booklet [available to view and download here](#)

Discuss in groups how the poems make the pupils feel? Ask pupils to share which poem they liked the most and why.

Option 3

Read aloud or have pupils read aloud Sean Thackwray's short poem *What Happens Next* – a winning poem from the 2014 Competition. Ask pupils to come up with words to describe how it makes them feel. More advanced pupils might consider who is writing it and why:

***What happens next?* by Sean Thackwray**
What happens next
Will our lips meet again?
I long to feel you
But know in my heart this could be the end!
Are you listening my darling?
There is hate and selfishness,
But I'm only full of love and hope!

Option 4

Ask pupils to make lists of words that they associate with the topics of hope and unity – start by asking pupils to list words associated with these topics and display them on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper. In groups, get pupils to come up with words that might rhyme with words on this list. Possible topics include:

- The experience of countries such as Germany (pp.30-31); Russia (pp. 32-33); Ireland (pp.38-39)
- The experience of war around the world: see The British Empire (pp.46-47); The War in the Middle East (pp.48-49); The War in Africa (pp50-51)
- Responses to War (pp.8-9)
- Objections to War (pp.96-97)
- Wartime work (pp. 88-89)

Option 5

Discuss in groups the different ways that war dead are remembered:

- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission care for war memorials to remember 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars (pp.60-63)
- Symbols of remembrance such as The Cenotaph (p.118) may be found across the world

Ask your pupils whether they think it is important to remember and commemorate the war dead, and why.

Tips on writing a poem:

1. Write about what you know and have experienced
2. Ask yourself at the end of every line, 'Do I really need all these words? What are the ones that carry power, and what are the ones that are padding?'
3. Remember you don't have to write in complete sentences in the poetry – there are no restrictions
4. Never use a word just because it rhymes, and remember rhythm is as important in poetry as rhyme
5. Think images! Images are pictures that tell a story

Plenary

Poems written during this session may be entered into the Together competition. **The closing date is Friday 27th July 2018.** If you submit your poems by Friday 15th June you will be in for the chance to have your work published in the Never Such Innocence Legacy Book.

Every child who takes part receives a personalised Certificate of Commendation. If entering one poem written by multiple students please include everyone's names on the entry form, so that all the students receive a certificate.

A selection of entries will be published in the Never Such Innocence Legacy Book and winners will be invited to a very special event at the British Embassy in Berlin this November.