

English Activity 1

Task one: Watch the video of Michael Rosen's top tips for performing poetry and create a list of his top tips to help yourself and others become more successful performer.

<https://watchkin.com/LLL2a3ecba>



Top tips for performing:

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Task two: Read through the Navajo poem 'The War God's Horse Song' and think of ways this could be performed, using the tips list you have created.

Perform the poem in front of your family, or even record it with parental permission to share on the schools Twitter page.

1. Which words might you say quickly or more slowly? Words and phrases like "quick lightening" might be said more quickly than the words trailing. *Trailing means walk or move slowly or wearily.*
2. What different actions could you do through the poem?
3. How would you change the tone and expression of your voice for the word peaceful at the end of the poem?

The War God's Horse Song

I am the Turquoise Woman's son

On top of Belted Mountain beautiful horses
slim like a weasel

My horse has a hoof like a striped agate
his fetlock is like fine eagle plume
his legs are like quick lightning

My horse's body is like an eagle-feathered arrow

My horse has a tail like a trailing black cloud

The Holy Wind blows through his mane
his mane is made of rainbows

My horse's ears are made of round corn

My horse's eyes are made of stars

My horse's head is made of mixed waters
(from the holy waters)
(he never knows thirst)



My horse's teeth are made of white shell

The long rainbow is in his mouth for a bridle
and with it I guide him

When my horse neighs
different-coloured horses follow

When my horse neighs
different-coloured sheep follow

I am wealthy because of him

Before me peaceful
Behind me peaceful
Under me peaceful
Over me peaceful
Peaceful voice when he neighs
I am everlasting and peaceful
I stand for my horse

Anon. (Navajo)



Activity 2

English

In the Navajo poem, the author uses **similes** and **metaphors** to compare the horse to another thing to create an image in the reader's mind.

-) My horse has a hoof **like** a striped agate
-) his fetlock is **like** fine eagle plume
-) his legs are **like** quick lightning
-) My horse's body is **like** an eagle-feathered arrow
-) My horse has a tail **like** a trailing black cloud

A simile describes something by comparing it to something else, using **like** or **as**.




The snake moved **like** a ripple on a pond.

It was as slippery **as** an eel.

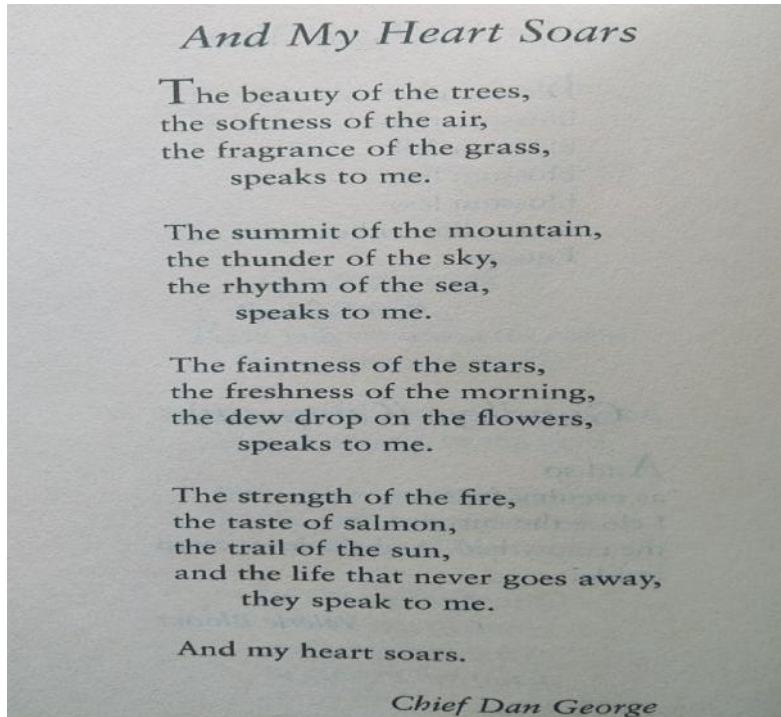
Jess is as graceful **as** a gazelle.

Task: Write five similes for each picture to create a simple simile poem. For each line start with the animals name.

Compare the colour of the fur, the shape of the animal, its colour, the noise it makes and how it moves.

	<p>The eagle's beak is like a rusted hook The eagle's eyes are like compact black beads The eagle's tail is like a brush dipped in white paint The eagle's spread wings like curtains blotting out the sky The eagle swooping down like a rocketing dart</p>
	<p>The wolf's fur is as white as The wolf's howl like The wolf has teeth like The wolf is as fast as</p>
	<p>The buffalo's fur is like The buffalo's horns are like The buffalo is as heavy as The buffalo's charge is like</p>

Activity 3 - **Task one: Read the poem 'And My Heart Soars' by Chief Dan George.**



1. How do you think the poet feels about nature? Can you use evidence from the text to explain your answer?
2. What do you notice about each stanza?
3. Are any lines or words repeated?
4. What do you think is suggested by the phrase 'the life that never goes away'?

Task Two: Match the features to the definition below. Then label the poem 'And My Heart Soars' to identify the features follow the example of 'The War God's Horse Song' below.

line	A set of lines that are grouped. It usually has four or more lines and it can be referred to as a verse.
stanza	The text that takes up one line or row in a poem.
repetition	A person who writes a poem.
title	The action of repeating something that has already been said or written.
poet	The name given to a poem, book or artwork.
simile	Describes something by comparing it to something else, using like or as.

title → The War God's Horse Song

stanza → I am the Turquoise Woman's son
On top of Belled Mountain bea
slim like a weasel

simile → My horse has a hoof like a striped agate
his fellow is like fine eagle plume
his legs are like quick lightning

line → My horse's teeth are made of white shell
The long rainbow is in his mouth for a bridle
and with it I guide him

repetition → When my horse neighs
different-coloured horses follow
When my horse neighs
different-coloured sheep follow
I am wealthy because of him

stanza → Before me peaceful
Behind me peaceful
Under me peaceful
Over me peaceful
Peaceful voice when he neighs
I am everlasting and peaceful
I stand for my horse

Anon (Navajo)

English

Task: Using the visuals and [video link](#), generate noun phrases for each picture to help you create your own version of Chief Dan George's poem 'And My Heart Soars'.

You will need to think about the different things you can see, hear, smell, taste and touch.

-) the clear, blue sky
-) the muted, striped mountain tops
-) the blistering and numbing cold air
-) the warm, glowing sun peeking over the caverns edge



English

Task: Write your own poem inspired by 'My Heart Sours'.

You must follow these limitations:

-) Each stanza must include four lines
-) Each line must include a noun phrase to describe a different natural form and a simile
-) The last line of each stanza should be the same - you can choose to use the same line as the poet "speaks to me."

To help put your ideas into different orders, write out your noun phrases from activity four, cut them up and rearrange them to form three different stanzas.

The clear blue sky,
The towering, copper cavern,
The lone, winding stream,
The faint echo of a voice,
Speak to me.

The muted, striped summits,
Blistering, freezing cold air,
The static, needle-like green trees,
The bone chilling, calm waters,
Speaks to me.



The summit of the mountain,

The beauty of the trees,

The towering, copper cavern

The static, needle-like trees

speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars,

Blistering, freezing cold air,

The strength of the fire

The crisp, cool river's edge

speaks to me.

Once you are happy with your poem, perform it to your family. Maybe you can create some actions to perform while you say your poem aloud. Remember to use tone and expression to express your emotions.