**Observation? Poetry? ‘Simples’ to quote the meerkats!**

What happens if you’re going to be observed by SMT and it’s your poetry unit, a lesson about as welcome in your classroom as Bubonic plague on a hospital ward?

Your three choices:

1) Feign sickness (Poeticitious) until poetry is off the agenda.

2) Sprint across the playground, never to be seen again.

3) Look at my cool poetry ideas below…

**Y2/3**

**I don’t like…**

*I don’t like salad sandwiches and I don’t like garden peas.*

*I don’t like sticky honey. Who cares if it’s made by bees?*

*I don’t like my mummy’s face when she’s searching for her keys!*

*I only like chocolate!*

Fairly easy for the children to write their own:

Focus: Adjectives / expanded noun phrases…

I don’t like curry. (SEND)

I don’t like hot curry.

I don’t like hot, Indian curry.

I don’t like hot, Indian curry **because** it burns my mouth! Arrgghh!

As you can see, four different levels for your groups within your class.

One hour lesson plan

Discuss how we’re all different. List a few things we love. Now list things we don’t like / love. Bring in a shopping bag, filled with items, such as an umbrella, (walking in the rain) alarm clock (Getting up early) and food, drink etc.

Typical lesson plan – ‘tweak’ as you wish!

**5 mins: Read and discuss the poem – use idea above!**

**10 mins: Model write poem for the children (One or two verses is enough)**

**30 mins: Children’s writing time**

**5 mins: Listen to children’s examples!**

**Y3/4**

**In trouble!**

5 mins: Discuss have you ever been in trouble? What do the words actually mean?

‘If you do that again, you’ll be ‘In trouble!’

Discuss – listen to children.

‘I was in trouble once because my mum…’

*You can squeeze a tube of toothpaste but squeeze a tomato and you’re in trouble!*

*You can run a bubble bath but run a marathon and you’re in trouble!*

You can crack an egg but crack a skull and you’re in trouble!

(SEND working with TA)

Use adjectives / expanded noun phrases again…

You can jump on an enormous blue trampoline

BUT jump on a fierce, wild crocodile and you’re in trouble!

Extension: You can jump on an enormous blue trampoline at your best friend’s birthday party BUT jump on a fierce, wild crocodile deep in the jungle and you’re in trouble!

**Y5/6**

**I wonder…**

*I wonder what a goldfish thinks about, swimming in a bowl?*

*Is he dreaming of a bigger tank or a long lost family shoal?*

*Is he waiting for another fish to share his watery home?*

*Or is she happy all alone, the King of his own glass dome?*

*I wonder…*

5 mins: Discuss how lots of questions will always remain unanswered. Do aliens exist? Where is heaven? When I’m older, will I get married? Etc.

10 mins: Read and discuss my poem

10 mins: Model write – great for personification…

I wonder what an iPhone 3 thinks about, sitting on a dusty shelf in a charity shop?

Is she remembering her halcyon days, when everybody loved her?

Is she remembering Lauren, her first teenage owner, who loved her so much? (Comparative)

Or is she happy in the charity shop, enjoying a rest after many years of full charge?

I wonder…

Extension can include 1) Looking at the rhythm 2) Trying to rhyme like mine.

Here are some great ones:

I wonder what an Olympic swimmer thinks about, finishing fourth in a race?

I wonder what Willy Wonker thinks about, when he meets Veruca Salt for the first time?

I wonder what an innocent fly thinks about, landing on a hungry spider’s sticky web?

This is one of my own personal favourites and I’ve seen some FABULOUS work linked to this ‘emotions’ poem.

**Another great one for Y5/6**

**Sometimes (Great for emotions)**

5 mins: List emotions on board. Play guess the emotion!

10 mins: Read and discuss my poem, notice the similes in each verse.

*Sometimes, I feel strong, as strong as an oak tree, on a cold winter’s morn,*

*braving the broadside of countless merciless storms.*

*Sometimes…*

*Sometimes I feel weak, as weak as a dying warrior on a blood-soaked battlefield,*

*Clutching still his silver sword and a tarnished broken shield.*

*Sometimes…*

*Sometimes, I feel…*

Sometimes…

10 mins: Model write one or two verses:

Sometimes I feel frustrated, as frustrated as an iPhone X limping along on 5% charge, wondering when his true and long-overdue salvation will come!

Sometimes…

I’m sure you can tailor my poetry ideas for some fabulous lessons of your own, even if you’re going to be observed. Don’t forget that one of the most important things is to let a few children ‘perform’ a verse from their poems at the end of your lesson. Then we have writing for a purpose. Happy planning everybody! SIMPLES!

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*A former primary school teacher, Paul Delaney is a now freelance children’s author and performance poet working in schools all over the UK and Europe. He’s also director of music at Farnworth Mediaeval CE Church, piano teacher at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic High School and music teacher at St Bede’s Catholic Junior School, all of which are in in his hometown of Widnes, Cheshire, England.*

For copies of his poems shown above, please email him:

paul@pauldelaneypoetry.co.uk