

ARTSDROP #5

GUEST ARTIST: **Joseph Coelho & Rob White**

TITLE: **Kick-Off Time, Perfect Rhyme**






Joseph Coelho is an award-winning children's author and poet. His first children's collection, *Werewolf Club Rules*, was the winner of the CLPE Poetry Award. His poetry collection *Overheard in a Tower Block* went onto many longlists and shortlists for awards including the Carnegie Medal.



Rob White is a photographer and reminiscence therapy practitioner based in London. He loves sport, both as a spectator and player. Over the past four years, he has helped many people to connect using the positive power of sport.

Learning links

National Curriculum themes explored in these activities:

-  Writing about personal experiences
-  Evaluating the effectiveness of your own writing
-  Understanding different poetic forms, using models to compose your own work

English

Sport can mean many things to many people. To some, it's all about the love of watching a game, be it football, basketball or even chess. To others it might be running a marathon, climbing a mountain, or simply daily walks with your dog. From swimming to skiing, frisbee to freestyle dance, let's create some poetry thinking creatively about all the sporting activities we enjoy.



1

Creating a sporting word bank

Write a list of words inspired by a sporting memory. This could be taking part in school sports day, learning to swim, watching an event or match on TV, or even going to a stadium. If you have several ideas, you could work with them to create more than one word bank.

Think about the memory you have chosen in as much detail as you can, then record it in expanded noun phrases. Here are some examples:

Football: freshly cut grass, wild cheering, loud shouts, the peep of a whistle, glistening sweat, muddy boots

Swimming: chlorine scent, turquoise water, muffled sounds underwater, damp towels, metallic drop of a coin into the locker

Keep your list nearby. You might want to use some of your words in the later exercises.

If you read your list to somebody else without telling them the activity, could they guess what you were describing? This is a good way to check if your collection of words or phrases is clear.

2

Creating a poem using your five senses

Using your word bank from activity 1, compose a short poem inspired by taking part in sport.

For you, sport might be a walk or playground game, or you could be learning a particular discipline such as tap dancing or taekwondo. It might be competing in a team and the way it feels when you play a match, or win or lose.

To help your imagination flow, try these sentence openers, ensuring you give your audience a description from each of the senses and an idea of your emotions.



I touched...



I saw...



I tasted...



I heard...



I smelled...



I felt...

You can then develop your ideas from these sentence starters if you wish. Which sporting activity does this poem describe?

'The air is cold.

My legs feel heavy underneath me.

My lungs heave against the biting air.

I plod along the seafront and taste the salt on the air.

My heart races in my chest.

I hear my breaths rasping short and quick.'

1

2

3

3

Creating a speedy poem

Poetry, like sport, is playful. Challenge yourself to write a speedy poem in just five minutes about something sports-related.

Haiku poems can be very quick to create.

A haiku poem uses a set number of syllables on each line. A syllable is just the number of different sounds in a word. 'Assembly' has three syllables: A – ssem – bly.

A haiku has three lines:

Five syllables in the first line

Seven syllables in the second

Five syllables in the third

Here's an example of a haiku about skipping:

'Skipping on the path

Feet make a steady rhythm

Mustn't lose the beat'

For a different, more challenging task, you could take inspiration from a quote by a sports personality being interviewed. Muhammed Ali, who was one of the world's greatest heavyweight boxers, once said:

'I done tussled with a whale... Only last week I murdered a rock, injured a stone, hospitalised a brick. I'm so mean I make medicine sick.'

We've taken his words here to inspire another example haiku:

'I murdered a rock
Wrestled an alligator
Tussled with a whale.'

Write your speedy poem on the running track below. Ready, steady, GO!



Thank you for taking part. You might want to share your work with your school, friends and family, or even our team at the Southbank Centre on social media: #ArtsDropSC @southbankcentre