



**WALKING WITH THE WOUNDED**

*Supporting Those Who Served*



Campaign partner



# Poetry Ideas, Resources and Activities

## Poetry Competition 2024

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### **Important Note:**

This is not a lesson plan, but instead a bank of ideas, resources and activities that can be used to formulate a lesson plan for different Key Stages.

Walking With The Wounded do not claim any of the resources signposted in this document.



# Resources

[Poetry resources and ideas for teachers](#) | BookTrust:

This website signposts various links and resources that are available and helpful when planning a lesson on poetry.

## Poetry websites:

- **BBC Schools site for teachers** includes lots of poetry resources and activities.
- **The Poetry Archive** holds the most comprehensive collection of contemporary poets reading their own work in the UK. It includes areas for pupils and teachers as well as activities for the classroom.
- **The Poetry Society** features all things to do with poetry in the UK, including a site for young fans of reading and writing poetry.
- **The Poetry Library** offers comprehensive information for poetry publications and poetry-related activities.
- **The Scottish Poetry Library** features an idea-bank, resources for teachers, information on competitions and programmes of live events.
- **Poetry 180** was created by Billy Collins when he was the US Poet Laureate. It is based at the Library of Congress and is designed specifically for high schools, containing an excellent list of poems designed to be read every day of the school year.
- **Poem Analysis** is a helpful site featuring thousands of poems, which looks to analyse poetry from the past and present. It aims to spread awareness of poetry by helping people to understand it. Unlike many other poetry analysis sites, it does not use a paywall.





# What is Poetry?



Imagery credit: commandjoes.co.uk



## What is Poetry?

Begin with a discussion: "What is poetry?" and let students share their thoughts.

Poetry is a type of literature that aims to evoke an emotional response in the reader through language chosen and arranged for its meaning, sound, and rhythm. The five defining characteristics of a poem include:

1. Meter
2. Rhyme
3. Form
4. Sound
5. Rhythm/timing.

[What is Poetry? | Poetry Terms Definition – Twinkl](#)

### **Some questions for discussion:**

- What does poetry mean to you?
- Have you ever written a poem before?
- What are some well known poems?
- Do you have a favourite poem?



# Understanding Poetic Elements:

**Introduce basic poetic elements: rhyme, rhythm, and imagery.**

[English KS1 / KS2: Playing with words - BBC Teach](#)

Video for KS1/ KS2 which introduces poetry and poetic devices.

[Teaching Elements of Poetry for Kids \(enjoy-teaching.com\)](#)

An online resource that highlights different poetic elements.

## **Activities:**

1. Ask students to create examples to illustrate each element.
2. Present a poem to students to analyse and identify different poetic elements. What elements have been used? What effect does it have?

An example you could use:

[I is for In Flanders Fields - BBC Teach](#) (please review as this may not be appropriate for younger years).



## Different types of Poetry

[Poems - KS2 English - BBC Bitesize](#): Recommended resource for KS1 and KS2. Has information on limerick, nonsense, free verse, riddle and acrostic poems.

[Understanding poetry - KS3 English - BBC Bitesize](#)

This BBC Bitesize website is very good for exploring different types of poetry such as ballad, limericks and haiku, sonnet.

[11 Types of Poetry to Know, With Examples | Grammarly Blog](#) This further builds upon different types of Poetry giving examples.



### **Activity Suggestion:**

- Create a group encyclopedia, allocate different groups a different type of poetry to research, define, note examples.
- Ask different groups to present to the class their findings.
- Ask to the other students to make notes so after each presentation they can form their own encyclopedia.



# Writing Poems



Imagery credit: [commandojoes.co.uk](http://commandojoes.co.uk)





Use the next few slides to create your poem for WWTW's  
**Poetry Competition** held June 2024 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the D-Day landings.

# Get a Head Start! Thought Shower

With your allocated theme, create a list of descriptive words and phrases that you associate with your theme:

Consider sensory details such as: sight, sound, touch, taste, smell.

## **Themes Reminder:**

Key Stage One: **Bravery**

Key Stage Two: **Home**

Key Stage Three: **Resilience**

Key Stage Four: **Memory**

## **Example: Home**

**Sight:** what physical objects can you see that makes you feel at home?

**Sound:** what sounds make you feel at home?

**Touch:** Describe a sensory touch that might make you feel at home.

**Taste:** Is there a food you associate with being home?

**Smell:** What smells make you feel at home?





## Choose Poetry Type:

**Select a poetic form that you think would match with your chosen theme.**

It could be a haiku, free verse, sonnet, or any other form discussed earlier.

1. Sketch a rough outline or structure for your poem.
2. Outline and reflect on the key points you want to cover, keeping in mind the specific requirements and constraints of each form.
3. Experiment with different ways to present your ideas within the chosen structures.

**TIP!** Be flexible, try various formats, or ideas. Discuss aloud with partner.

# Developing your poem:

## 1. Incorporate Literary Devices:

Can you see where you can add in devices such as:

- Metaphors
- Similes
- Personification
- Symbolism
- Hyperbole
- Onomatopoeia

These devices can add depth and meaning to your poem. Enhancing imagery and emotion.

## 2. Consider Rhyme and Rhythm:

If your chosen poetry type involves rhyme and rhythm, carefully consider how they contribute to the overall flow of your poem.

Read your poem aloud to either a partner or yourself. You can even record yourself and listen to it again.

Is there a smooth flow?

Do you need to edit punctuation?

Explore different rhyme schemes and rhythmic patterns.

## 3. Editing and Refinement:

Review your poem for clarity, coherence, and impact.

Is there any better language alternatives you can use?

Are you happy with the length of your poem?

Does the tone match with what you're wanting to express?

What impact do you want your poem to have?

Does your poem achieve this?

“

**Some top tips when presenting a poem:**

- Read privately first, identify key emotions which the poem conveys.
- Identify Speakers voice: what perspective are you telling the poem from? Consider emotions, attitudes and motivations.
- Practice pronunciation: is there any words you find difficult to pronounce?
- Practice vocal variety: variety can keep audience engaged
- Pause effectively: figure where are the most impactful places to pause. Be deliberate and use to enhance overall delivery.
- Maintain eye contact as best you can: this allows you connect with the room.
- Pay attention to your body language: your stance, facial expressions and hand gestures all contribute to delivery.

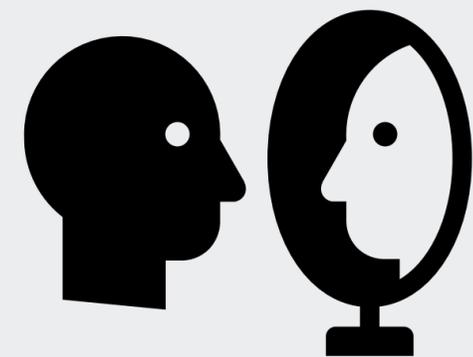
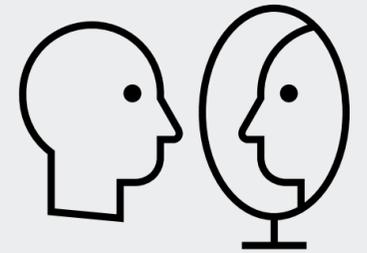
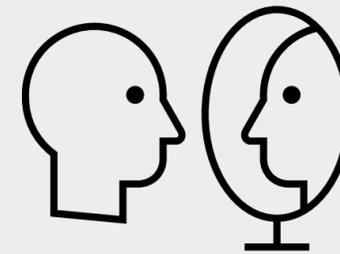
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# Reflection

## Time to Reflect

Suggested task - take the time to reflect on the following questions:

- What has been your favourite part during this poetry session?
- Have you enjoyed this poetry session?
- Were you able to express yourself in a way you hadn't previously?
- How did expressing your emotions through poetry make you feel?
- Did you learn anything new?
- Did you learn anything new about yourself?



# Benefits of Poetry:

Enhanced Vocabulary

Emotional Expression and communication

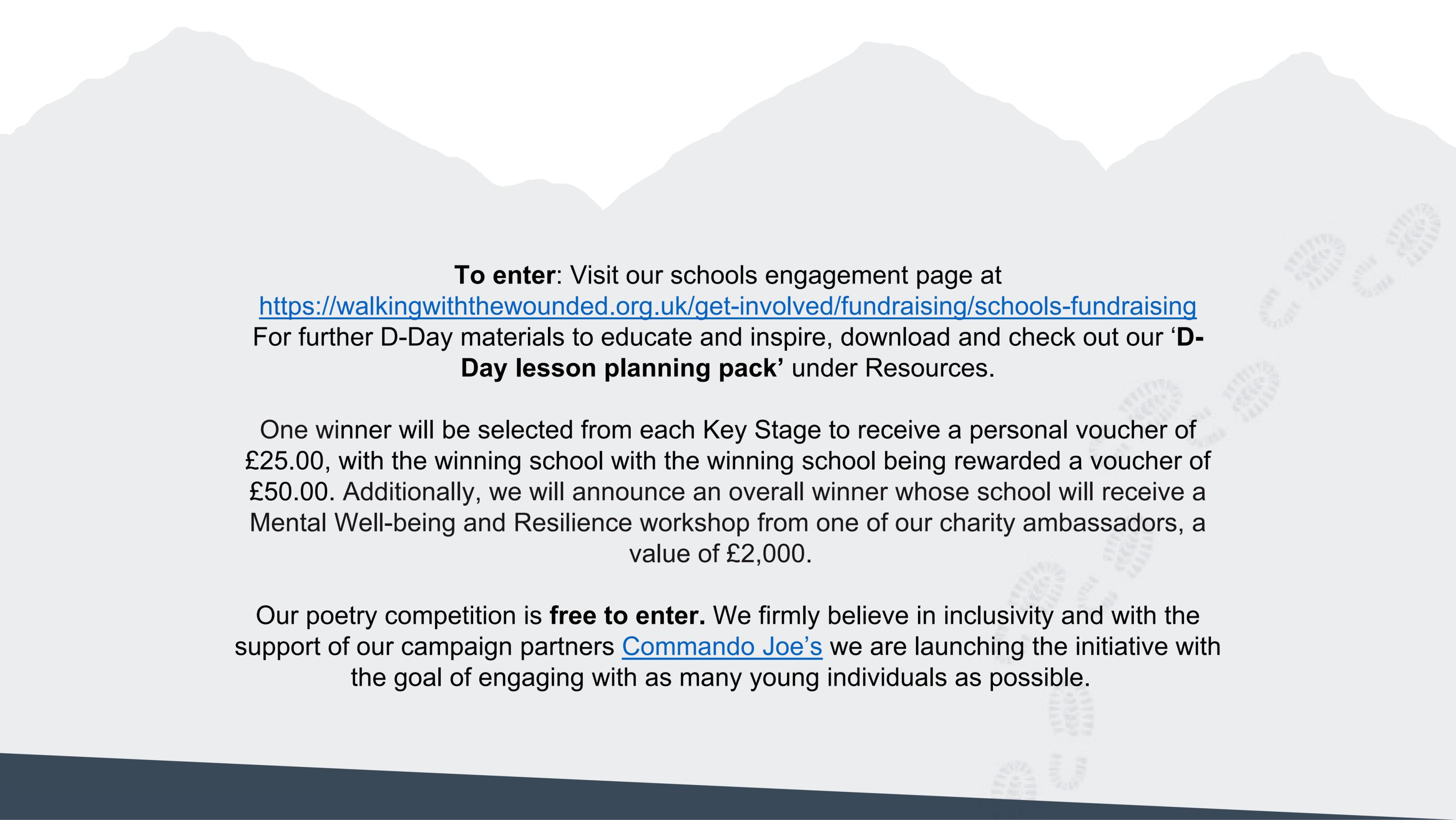
Creativity and Imagination

Connection with others

Self Reflection

Stress Relief

Can you think of any others?



**To enter:** Visit our schools engagement page at <https://walkingwiththewounded.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/schools-fundraising> For further D-Day materials to educate and inspire, download and check out our '**D-Day lesson planning pack**' under Resources.

One winner will be selected from each Key Stage to receive a personal voucher of £25.00, with the winning school with the winning school being rewarded a voucher of £50.00. Additionally, we will announce an overall winner whose school will receive a Mental Well-being and Resilience workshop from one of our charity ambassadors, a value of £2,000.

Our poetry competition is **free to enter**. We firmly believe in inclusivity and with the support of our campaign partners [Commando Joe's](#) we are launching the initiative with the goal of engaging with as many young individuals as possible.



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