

KS2 Literacy Poetry Lesson Plan

National Curriculum Links:

Year 4 Non-fiction - Unit 4 - Persuasive texts
Year 5 Non-fiction - Unit 3 - Persuasive writing
Year 6 transition - Unit - Persuasion
Year 6 Non-fiction - Unit 3 - Argument
Year 6 revision - Unit 2

Duration: 60 minutes.

Resources: Brough Hill Fair poem by Dorothy Una Ratcliffe, worksheet for planning pupils' poems.

Objectives

1. To understand that poems can be written to complain about a decision by the Government.
2. Learn more about Travellers and their tradition of attending fairs

Activities

1. Explain some of the context before reading through the poem. Tell the pupils that the poet is complaining about something that is being stopped. Ask the pupils to listen to the poem and identify what is being stopped, they might not understand all the language, but ask them what point the poet is making. Read the poem through and discuss. Talk about the end of verse 3.

Go through the verses and ask pupils what point the poet is making. Ask pupils about why the fair is important to Travellers. Many fairs have been going for 100s of years, the oldest is Appleby Horse Fair which got its Royal Charter in the 1200s. Explain how many families don't see their relatives, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and cousins except at fairs. Watton Horse Fair was recently cancelled and this has had the same impact.

Look at how there are positive points made in the last two verses. Mention how Travellers are being forced to stop Travelling because of a chronic shortage of stopping places and that they have been Travelling for more than a thousand years. Ask pupils how Travellers might feel about this, compare it to football being cancelled because of violence etc.

2. Tell pupils that they are going to plan and write a poem about an important event to them which, in their poem, is going to be banned.