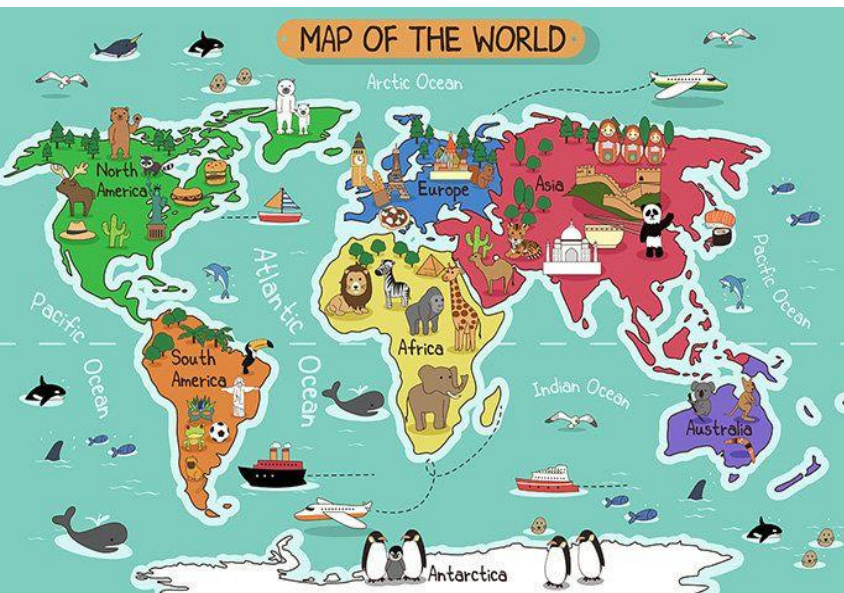


Y7: Poetry from Other Cultures

Why? This unit is designed to expose you to a wide range of poetry with one common theme: a range of other cultures and traditions. Poetry is an important key concept in literature, it is unique in its language, structure and form allowing poets to express profound ideas and emotions in small capsules. Understanding a poem's origins and contexts is key to understanding.

Culture	<i>(noun)</i> The ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular people or society.
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What other vocabulary can you think of surrounding Poetry from Other Cultures? Add it to your glossary.



What poems are we studying?

The Refugees by Brian Bilston reminds readers to look beyond shallow stereotypes and to think twice before making unfair judgements about the less fortunate.

The Blessing by Imtiaz Dharker is a poem that highlights the "blessing" of water in people's lives and the fact that they need much more.

Not My Business by Niyi Osundare is about the spread of oppression and the consequences of staying silent in the face of injustice.

Search for my Tongue by Sujata Bhatt is about how the poet moved to another country and no longer needs her original language. She still reminisces about it and worries that she may lose her 'mother tongue.'

Presents from my Aunts in Pakistan by Moniza Alvi focuses on the feelings of a teenage girl who is caught between cultures, having a father from Pakistan and an English mother.

A Century Later by Imtiaz Dharker is concerned with the struggles of schoolgirls around the world, fighting for their right to an education.

Culture is an abstract concept which can be interpreted in many ways.

Vocabulary:

Culture	The beliefs, ideas, and ways of life that a group of people share.
Criticism	Careful thought about someone or something and give an opinion about how effective or ineffective something is.
Demonisation	portraying someone or something as entirely evil or bad, often unfairly exaggerating their harm or threat.
Destitute	having no money, food, or basic needs. Someone who is extremely poor and struggling to survive.
Ignorance	Not knowing something or lacking knowledge.
Identity	who a person is, including their personality, beliefs, culture, and experiences.
Heritage	the traditions, culture, and history passed down from the past.
Oppression	when a person or group is treated unfairly, controlled, or held down by someone in power.

