

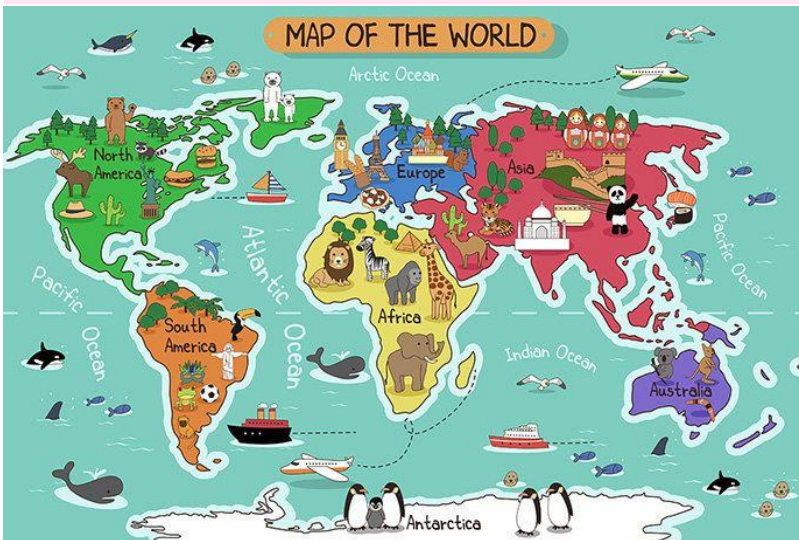
Y7: Poetry from Other Cultures

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. It is important to love poetry from all eras as context is key to understanding.

Speak like a literary critic...

Culture	<i>(noun)</i> The ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular people or society.
Religion	<i>(noun)</i> A particular system of faith and worship.
Palindrome	<i>(noun)</i> A text that can be read backwards and forwards and it still makes sense.
Stereotype	<i>(noun)</i> A widely held, but fixed idea of a particular person or group of people.

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.

Half-Caste by John Agard reveals both the ignorance and absurdity of racism, which seeks to distil the complexity of human identity.

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:

Rhyme	<i>(noun)</i> A similar sound between words or the ending of words, especially used in poetry
Rhythm	<i>(noun)</i> A strong, regular repeated pattern of sounds, especially used in poetry.
Simile	<i>(noun)</i> A comparison of one thing to other, using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’.
Metaphor	<i>(noun)</i> A comparison between two things which is not literally applicable.
Personification	<i>(noun)</i> The attribution of a human characteristics to something non-human.
Sibilance	<i>(noun)</i> The repetition of the ‘s’ sound for effect.
Extended Metaphor	<i>(noun)</i> A metaphor that appears across multiple lines of a text.
Repetition	<i>(noun)</i> When a word or phrase is repeated for effect.
Stanza	<i>(noun)</i> A division of a poem consisting of two or more lines arranged together as a unit.
Free Verse	<i>(noun)</i> A poem that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm.
Enjambment	<i>(noun)</i> The continuation of a line of poetry without a pause for punctuation.

Recall and Embed: Which devices are we already aware of and which are unique to poetry?

