

Y7 PEOPLE AND PLACES POETRY: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Key Words

- **Message:** the point a writer is making through their poem
- **Symbolism:** where objects, characters or other aspects of a text represent (stand for) something else
- **Stanza:** a verse in a poem
- **Simile:** directly comparing two things to make a vivid description (using as or like)
- **Metaphor:** referring to something as something else for effect
- **Personification:** when a writer gives human characteristics to an object/something non-human

Key Skills

- **Read and understand** 13 poems about people and places
- **Understand** the **context** of each poem
- Develop **annotation** skills through **identifying terminology**
- Develop **analytical** writing skills
- Consider **effects** of text on reader

Help/Support

- [The poem] presents nature as...
- The line/phrase "....." tells the reader that.....
- This implies/suggests/explores the idea that.....
- The word/phrase/image "....." shows/implies/suggests
- The poet grew up in... which...
- [The poet] may have wanted to show that.....

Essential information

<p>Island Man – Grace Nichols A comparison of life in London with life in the Caribbean. <i>"the sun surfacing defiantly", "small emerald island", "grey metallic soar"</i></p>	<p>In My Country – Jackie Kay A poem about place and identity. <i>"a slow watchful circle", "where the honest river shakes hands with the sea", "her words spliced into bars of an old wheel"</i></p>
<p>Refugee Blues – WH Auden A reflection on the discrimination faced by refugees during WW2. <i>"Yet there's no place for us, my dear", "It was Hitler over Europe, saying 'they must die'"</i></p>	<p>Sheffield – Warda Yassin A memoir of growing up in Sheffield. <i>"that first icing sugar snow", "we grew tall like tower blocks", we curved round him like riverbeds"</i></p>
<p>Still I Rise – Maya Angelou A personal account of rising up out of black oppression. <i>"I laugh like I've got gold mines diggin' in my own back yard", "But still, like air, I'll rise", "I am the dream and the hope of the slave"</i></p>	<p>Chimney Sweep – William Blake A poem about the chimney sweepers in The Industrial Revolution. <i>"notes of woe!", "They clothed me in the clothes of death", "make up a heaven of our misery"</i></p>
<p>Nettles – Vernon Scannell A parent's perspective of challenges children face growing up. <i>"regiment of spite", "a funeral pyre to burn the fallen dead", "would often feel sharp wounds again"</i></p>	<p>Digging – Seamus Heaney A personal reflection on the poet's childhood and career choice. <i>"snug as a gun", "Just like his old man", "I'll dig with it"</i></p>
<p>Hawk Roosting – Ted Hughes A poem about the power of nature. <i>"Now I hold Creation in my foot", "I kill where I please because it is all mine", "I am going to keep things like this"</i></p>	<p>I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud – William Wordsworth A celebration of the joys of nature. <i>"golden daffodils", "tossing their heads in a sprightly dance", "the bliss of solitude"</i></p>
<p>Spring – Edna St Vincent Millay An angry poem about the relentless passing of time. <i>"Beauty is not enough", "the brains of men eaten by maggots", "comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers"</i></p>	<p>Nothing Gold Can Stay – Robert Frost A poem about not being able to freeze time. <i>"hardest hue to hold", "Eden sank to grief", "dawn goes down to day."</i></p>
<p>Wild Geese – Mary Oliver A message that we don't have to be perfect; to embrace ourselves as part of nature <i>"You do not have to be good", "Meanwhile the world goes on", "clear pebbles of the rain"</i></p>	<p>Final thoughts... <i>"Poetry is eternal graffiti written in the heart of everyone."</i> — Lawrence Ferlinghetti <i>"Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance."</i> — Carl Sandburg <i>"Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful."</i> — Rita Dove</p>