

Weekly focus: Poetry structure and language.

This week you are going to be looking at the poem 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. It is a magical poem full of senses and imagination. You will be using it to create your own poem with your own magic.

**THE MAGIC BOX, by Kit Wright**

I will put in the box...

the swish of a silk sari on a summer night,  
fire from the nostrils of a Chinese dragon,  
the tip of a tongue touching a tooth.

I will put in the box...

a snowman with a rumbling belly  
a sip of the bluest water from Lake Lucerne,  
a leaping spark from an electric fish.

I will put into the box...

three violet wishes spoken in Gujarati,  
the last joke of an ancient uncle,  
and the first smile of a baby.

I will put into the box...

a fifth season and a black sun,  
a cowboy on a broomstick  
and a witch on a white horse.

My box is fashioned from ice and gold and steel,  
with stars on the lid and secrets in the corners.  
Its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.

I shall surf in my box  
on the great high-rolling breakers of the wild Atlantic,  
then wash ashore on a yellow beach  
the colour of the sun.

## Lesson 1 - WALT: Identify and understand a poet's use of language

Watch the author Kit Wright reading his poem. Have the poem *The magic box* in front of you so that you can follow along as he reads it.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zkpmhyc>

Did you notice how the poet made use of all his senses in his poem.

He mentions what he had seen or would like to have seen - A leaping spark from an electric fish

What he had heard or would like to hear - A snowman with a rumbling belly

What he felt or what he could do to feel something - Surf on a great high breaker wave

What he smelt or would like to smell - Fire from the nostrils of a Chinese dragon (He might see this too)

What he tasted or would like to taste - A sip of the bluest water from Lake Lucerne

Your task today is to think carefully about your own senses and the experiences you have had or would like to have. Perhaps you love the smell of freshly cooked cakes or the sight of a beautiful sunset. You may love the sound of an owl hooting and the taste of chocolate. The trickiest one is probably the sense of touch. I know I love the feel of a huge hug from my mum and I love the touch of my cats fur but I'm sure you could come up with some amazing ideas of your own.

Fill in the grid below with your ideas. We will be using your best thoughts to create lines for your poem in the next lesson. Remember you can use things that are magical and not necessarily real like Kit Wright did. He had snowmen with rumbling bellies, a black sun and a fifth season.

## Task

<i>Sense</i>	<i>Ideas</i>
<i>What I have smelt or would like to smell</i>	
<i>What I have tasted or would like to taste.</i>	
<i>What I have seen or would like to see.</i>	
<i>What I have heard or would like to hear.</i>	
<i>What I have felt or would like to feel.</i>	

## Lesson 2 WALT: Use descriptive language

Adjectives are used to add detail to a noun (person, place or thing) to make descriptions clear or more interesting. They help create an image in the mind of the reader.

Let's have a look at some of the adjectives Kit Wright used when he wrote his poem. What images do they create in your mind?

The **adjectives** are coloured green and the **nouns** are coloured blue so you can see them easily.

A **leaping spark** from an **electric fish**



A witch on a **white horse**



The **last joke** of an **ancient uncle**

The pictures I have added are the images that these lines of the poem create in my mind.

Other devices Kit Wright uses to get the attention of the reader are **Alliteration**, **Onomatopoeia** and **Similes**.

**Alliteration** is where a writer uses words that start with the same sound (not just the same letter) repeatedly in a phrase or sentence. For Example Kit Wright wrote

The **tip** of a **tongue** touching a **tooth** and  
The **swish** of a **sari** on a **summer** night

**Onomatopoeia** is used so the reader doesn't just see the image in their mind, they hear it too. Such as 'The **swish** of a sari'

**Similes** are used by poets to help the reader to visualise an object by comparing it to something else. Kit Wright uses the phrase

'Its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs'.

This is a metaphor but if he had said

Its hinges are **like the toe joints of dinosaurs**.

This would be a simile because it uses the word like and compares the hinges to the toe joints of a dinosaur.

## Task

Your task today is to write sentences using the words you wrote in your table yesterday.

You need to use at least two words from each column to create a poem with 10 lines.

We would like you to try and use all of the poetic devices discussed on the previous page - *Adjectives*, *Alliteration*, *Onomatopoeia* and *Similies*

For example, last lesson I mentioned how I loved the feel of hug from my mum. I could change this to:

The warmth of a hug from a loved one *like a blanket on a cold night*.

I also mentioned the sound of a owl so I could write:

The *hoot* of a *wild owl* in the darkness of the night.

You could use the sentence starters below to help you or just write sentences of your own.

The sound of a \_\_\_\_\_

The smell of \_\_\_\_\_

I see \_\_\_\_\_

The taste of \_\_\_\_\_

The feel of \_\_\_\_\_

Just play with your sentences until they sound right to you. At this point you are just writing down your ideas. They do not have to be written perfectly and you can edit them as often as you like until you feel happy with the imagery you have used and the picture you are creating in the mind of the reader.

### Lesson 3 - WALT: Structure a poem

#### Task

Write each of your sentences from last lesson onto a strip of paper.

Next, arrange your strips of paper to create your own Magic Box Poem.

Then read your poem aloud.

Now re-arrange your strips into a different order.

Read it aloud again. Did it sound better than last time?

Keep re-arranging your strips until you are happy with the order then stick them in your Home Learning Book.

#### Extra challenge.

You may wish to describe your box like Kit Wright did

**My box is fashioned from ice and gold and steel,  
with stars on the lid and secrets in the corners.  
Its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.**

Send a picture of your poem to your Teacher or if you are feeling confident, record yourself reading it aloud and send the recording to your teacher.