**What to do today**

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

**1. Read and listen to two poems**

* Read *The Language of Cat*and*Russian Doll*. Read each poem twice – once in your head and once out loud.
* How are these poems similar? How are they different? Do you prefer one? Why?
* Listen to Rachel Rooney (the poet) read the poems. Did they sound as you expected? Did you notice anything new when you heard them? <https://vimeo.com/162519257>

<https://vimeo.com/162519272>

**2. Annotate the poems**

* Read *Useful Poetry Terms*.
* Annotate the poems to show which of these features you find.

**3. Write a paragraph about one of the poems**

* Read *Example and Guide*.
* Plan a paragraph about some of the features that you found in either of the poems. Now write this beautifully.

Well done. Show your paragraph and the poem to a grown-up. Show them how your paragraph is like the Example one.

**Try these Fun-Time Extras**

* Explore some more of Rachel Rooney’s poems on her website. Which do you like most? Why?

<https://www.rachelrooneypoet.com/about4>

* Try writing a new poem, ‘Language of Dog’ (You could write about the language of any animal.)

**The language of cat**

*Rachel Rooney*

Teach me the language of Cat;  
the slow-motion blink, that crystal stare,  
a tight-lipped purr and a wide-mouthed hiss.  
Let me walk with a saunter, nose in the air.

Teach my ears the way to ignore   
names that I’m called. May they only twitch   
to the distant shake of a boxful of biscuits,  
the clink of a fork on a china dish.

Teach me that vanishing trick  
where dents in cushions appear, and I’m missed.  
Show me the high-wire trip along fences  
To hideaway places, that no-one but me know exist.

Don’t teach me Dog.  
All eager to please; that slobbers, yaps and begs for a pat,  
that sits when told by its owner, that’s led on a lead.  
No, not that. Teach me the language of Cat.

*A cat with its mouth open

Description automatically generated*

*p.10, The Language of Cat and other poems*

**Russian doll**

*Rachel Rooney*

All you see is outside me: my painted smile,  
the rosy-posy shell, the fluttery eyes.  
A butter-won’t-melt-in-my-mouth-type me.

But inside there’s another me, bored till playtime.  
The wasting paper, daytime dreamer.  
A can’t- be-bothered-sort-of me.

And inside there’s another me, full of cheek.  
The quick, slick joker with a poking tongue.  
A class-clown-funny-one-of me

And inside there’s another me who’s smaller, scared.  
The scurrying, worrying, yes miss whisperer.  
A wouldn’t-say-boo-to-a-goosey me

And inside there’s another me, all cross and bothered.  
The scowling hot-head, stamping feet.  
A didn’t-do-it-blameless me

And inside there’s another me, forever jealous  
who never gets enough, compared.  
A grass-is-always-greener me

And deepest down, kept secretly  
a tiny, solid skittle doll.  
The girl that hides inside of me.

A picture containing building

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*p.22, The Language of Cat and other poems*

**Useful Poetry Terms**

**Stanzas -** groups of lines – a little like paragraphs

**Rhythm -** the beat of a poem – can be regular or irregular

**Rhyme -** usingwords having the same end sound, can be the whole word or the last syllable *(cheese/please)*

**Alliteration -** using words which begin with the same sound

**Onomatopoeia -** words which make the sound they represent

**Repetition** – repeating words or phrases for effect in a refrain

**Simile -** describing something, using 'as' or 'like'

**Metaphor -** describing something as *being* something else

**Narrative** – telling a story

**Choral** – designed to be performed by more than one voice

**Example and Guide**

In the poem, ‘The language of cat’ by Rachel Rooney, onomatopoeia is used to show the sound that the cat makes. A good example is,

‘a tight-lipped purr and a wide-mouthed hiss’. I think the poet chose these words because when you say them you make the actual sounds that a cat makes so the listeners can imagine the cat. This makes it good for performance as you can say ‘hiss’ in an aggressive way and ‘purr’ softly like a cat would.

Say which poem you are writing about.

Explain which technique you are describing.

Give a good example inside quotation marks.

Explain why you think the poet chose these words.

Explain why this makes this poem good for performance.

*I am writing about…*

*In the poem…*

*She uses onomatopoeia/alliteration to…*

*For example,…*

*A good example of this is…*

*I think she chose these words because…*

*I think these words are used to…*

*This makes the poem good to perform because…*

**Poetry Writing**

*Write a paragraph about one of the features that you found. Use* **Model/Example** *to help you plan your paragraph.*

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