ART & POETRY SUPPORT

‘Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass’ Anton Chekhov.

The combination of art and poetry as a discipline ignites your creativity. In this task you have to be able to create an original poem and artwork that reflect the concept or focus of the task and are connected physically and metaphorically. The famous poet William Blake cleverly combined his poetry and his etchings.

To prepare for this discipline focus on the sound, feel and power of language. Poetry is a delightful decanting of ideas and words. You need to ensure that each word contributes to the meaning and sound of the poem. Consider how you use imagery, sound devices and structure. When paint evocative images through words you are more likely to engage the reader and convey the meaning.

Here are few pointers for powerful poetry writing:

- Focus on the craft of writing: imagery, figurative devices, sentence structure and form.
- Show don’t tell. You need to avoid providing too much information and focus on appealing to the senses through effective descriptions. Our most powerful tool is our imagination!
- Develop a strong, distinctive voice. To achieve this is it is advantageous for students to write about what they have experienced so that your writing comes from the heart or researched at length.
- Choose and control their use of a range of language features to engage and influence an audience.
- They need to listen to the sound and rhythm of the language.
- Aim for lexical density! Playing with puns and gerunds develops this skill.
- Use a range of poetic devices.
- Focus on the power of verbs. The muscles of writing can be used to add layers of meaning and drive the action.
- Read your writing aloud or record the writing and listen to the sound of the words so that you hear the clunks and the moments of euphony (sweet sounds).
- Focus on the sounds of your words: plosive and fricative consonants, long and short vowel sounds, and sound devices such as onomatopoeia.

Excellent Sites to visit

6. The Shed: http://www.literacyshed.com/the-other-cultures-shed.html - brilliant site with a rich range of film clips, images and ideas to inspire writing for students of all ages.
9. Billy Collins’ poetry: ‘Walking Across the Atlantic’
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADCIXAixe0M ‘Forgetfulness’
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-a8ELOViq4; ‘Some Days’
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaBeaQHdrgO; ‘Now and Then’
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0xiWuwGq8M; ‘Budapest’
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vgne1f9YuU – America’s former poet laureate’s poetry animated evocatively.

Art

You do not have to be an artist to create a great art work. Your work can be symbolic. The words could wrap around and through the artwork or letters could be drawn to reflect what they represent, such as the word ‘river’ flowing down a page.

Excellent Sites to visit

2. http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/teachers/lessons-activities.html