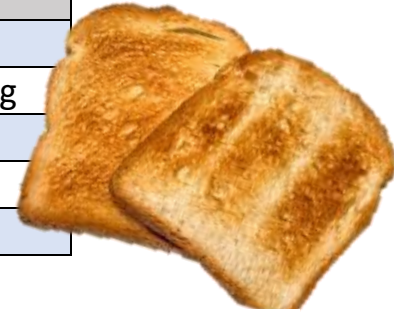


Knowledge organiser	Subject	Year	Term	Unit Title	Version
	English	9	2	<i>Introduction to Poetry</i>	November 2024

TOASTI

	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Simple example of use in writing</i>
T	Theme or Topic	The poem is about war.
O / A	Opinion & Attitudes	The poet is expressing the idea that war is horrific and causes great suffering
S	Structure	The poem is structured using five stanzas.
T	Technique	A metaphor is used in the phrase “he was a mountain”.
I	Individual word choices	The use of the verb “plodding” makes the boy sound slow, tired and bored.



TOASTI

	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Common Interpretations</i>					
T	Theme or Topic	relationships	love	nature	war	power	age
O / A	Opinion & Attitudes	warnings	celebrations	pride	longing	hope	regret
S	Structure	Short line	Long line	Short stanza	Long stanza	rhyme	rhythm
T	Technique	simile	metaphor	alliteration	personification	repetition	Onomatopoeia
I	Individual word choices	verb	adjective	noun	adverb	pronoun	synonym

VERY SIMPLE EXAMPLE OF TOASTI IN ACTION

The poem “Roses” explores themes of love and conflict. The poet seems to be expressing the attitude that love is beautiful but also very challenging at times. The poem uses three stanzas to explore these themes. Each one gets love as more and more challenging, but by the end he is more positive. The use of the metaphor “love is a firework” expresses the two sides of love really well. Fireworks are beautiful and exciting, but they are also violent and dangerous. The verb “exploded” at the end of poem reflects these two attitudes: love is powerful and dangerous.

USEFUL LINKS

How to study poetry
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zck22v4>

Understanding structure
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3w8k7h/revision/4>

Understanding figurative language
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6n6dp3>

Knowledge organiser	Subject	Year	Term	Unit Title	Version
	English	9	2	<i>Advanced Descriptive Writing</i>	November 2024

MI PASSPORTS

	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Simple definition</i>
M	Metaphor	A metaphor is a way of describing something by saying it is something else
I	Imagery	Vivid and descriptive language to create mental pictures for the reader.
P	Personification	Personification is when you give human qualities to something that isn't human.
A	Alliteration	Alliteration is when a lot of words close together start with the same sound.
S	Simile	A simile is a way of comparing two things using the words like or as.
S	Senses	Describe a whole range of features through sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.
P	Pathetic Fallacy	Pathetic fallacy is when nature or weather is described as having human feelings to match a mood.
O	Onomatopoeia	Onomatopoeia is when a word sounds like the noise it describes.
R	Repetition	Repetition is when the same word or phrase is used over and over to make an idea stand out.
T	Triplets	A triplet or list of three is when three things are mentioned together to create a strong, memorable effect.
S	Show – not tell	A reminder to describe in a way that lets the reader feel or imagine it, instead of just telling them it directly.



MIPASSPORTS - EXAMPLE IN USE

The storm raged like a wild beast, its loud roar shaking the trees. Thunder cracked in the sky, booming like a giant's footsteps, and lightning flashed, as bright as a thousand fireworks. The wind whispered through the branches, and the rain tapped on the windows like tiny fingers. The air smelled fresh, like wet earth, and the cold seeped into the room, making everything feel frosty. Outside, the clouds seemed angry, their dark shapes twisting like a dragon in the sky. The ground shuddered underfoot, as if it too was scared of the storm's power.

USEFUL LINKS

Introduction to descriptive writing:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zhwkkty>

Describing scenes:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zx499j6/revision/3>

Using descriptive techniques:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z84sk7h/revision/1>



Knowledge organiser	Subject	Year	Term	Unit Title	Version
	English	9	3	<i>Guided Reading: Boy's Don't Cry</i>	November 2024

NARRATIVE: Characters in *Boys Don't Cry* and what Blackman may have wanted them to represent

<p>Dante – Dante is a representation of the complexities of growing up in modern Britain. At the start he reflects the meritocratic ideal that everybody can succeed; he is black and from a single-parent family but gains excellent A Level results and a place at University. However, he is initially selfish and immature in his handling of Emma and his attitude to Melanie. He is also volatile in his reaction to Adam's beating. Ironically it is Emma who teaches him responsibility and tolerance for others.</p>	<p>Adam – Adam is very positive and accepting of his homosexuality at the start of the novel. He is presented as very open about his feelings but is perhaps rather naïve in his assumption that others will accept him as he is. Adam's acceptance of his sexuality reflects the more enlightened views of 21st century society, and it is his loneliness and his fears about his appearance that prompt him to suicide, rather than any confusion over his sexuality.</p>
<p>Mr Bridgeman – Tyler Bridgeman is representative of modern single-parenthood with all its emotional and financial pressures. He also represents a generation of men who are unable to express or come to terms with their own emotions, as 'boys don't cry'. The high standards he sets for Dante cause conflict and appear callous, and it is not until the end of the book that it is revealed that Tyler is in fact trying to protect his son.</p>	<p>Melanie – only appears at the start of the book, and the ending does not make it clear whether she will eventually return to claim her daughter. She represents many of the emotional and financial challenges facing single mothers, especially teenager mothers. Dante's attitude towards her abandonment of her daughter reflect society's strong condemnation of mothers who leave their children.</p>
<p>Collette – Dante's girlfriend is representative of the traditional path many young people aspire to take. She has achieved good grades and has a place at University. However, is presented as immature and intolerant in her attitude towards Emma and involves social services. She is perhaps representative of the 'state' intrusion into the lives of those whose lives do not follow a traditional path.</p>	<p>Josh – is a friend of Dante's. His cruel nature and violent aggression towards Adam reflect his extreme emotional conflict over his sexuality. He is unable to admit to his homosexual feelings and keeps his relationship with Adam a secret. Josh represents the attitude of many in society who still have mixed feelings about open homosexuality.</p>
<p>Emma – her presence in the family is important in bringing Dante and his father closer. She represents innocence in the novel, making Adam realise that appearances do not matter. Emma is described as 'smelling of hope' and helps the family come to terms with what happens to Adam.</p>	<p>Aunt Jackie – Dante's mother's twin sister but described by him as 'vinegar' compared to his mother's 'honey'. She represents the wider family and is initially resented by Dante and his father, but she becomes the conduit that brings the two together by showing that they need to express their feelings.</p>

Subject	Year	Term	Unit Title	Version
English	9	3	<i>Guided Reading: Boy's Don't Cry</i>	November 2024

Boys Don't Cry: Contexts and concepts

Malorie Blackman - Has been Children's Laureate since 2013. She was born in London but her parents were originally from Barbados. "I wanted to show black children just getting on with their lives, having adventures, and solving their dilemmas, like the characters in all the books I read as a child." In *Boys Don't Cry*, the family's ethnicity is only casually revealed halfway through.

Race - In the 1970s and 1980s, black people in Britain were the victims of racist violence perpetrated by far-right groups such as the National Front. Racism in Britain in general, including against black people, is considered to have declined over time and any discrimination on the basis of race has been enshrined in British law as an offence since 1976. However, incidents such as the Grenfell fire have brought to the forefront issues of poverty and inequality amongst BAME communities.

Sexuality – there has been a notable increase in the acceptance of homosexuality in the UK in recent years and the LGBTQ movement now holds regular Gay Pride events across the country. Legislation during the latter part of the 20th and the early part of the 21st century made any kind of discrimination on the basis of sexuality illegal and in 2014 legislation was finally passed to allow same sex marriage. However, Adam's experiences with Josh reflect the difficulties still faced by some people when coming to terms with their sexuality.

Education – there has been a continued rise in the number of young people going to university; in the 1960s it was 4%, now it is closer to 50%. Young people now have to stay in education or further training until they are over 18, and A Levels are seen as the gateway to further education, rather than an end in themselves. However, black students historically perform worst at A Level, with the lowest percentage achievement of all ethnic groups. Dante's university aspirations and grades are therefore unusual, particularly as he also comes from a single parent family and his father is not university educated.

Single parents – Unlike the early part of the 20th century, single parent families are far more commonly accepted in the 21st century. They make up nearly a quarter of families with dependent children in the UK. However, 90% of these are women, so Dante's father-led single family is a modern representation of a family unit, and the unusual nature of it is reflected in the initial incredulity with which his friends meet Dante's decision to look after Emma on his own. Melanie's background also reflects the issues facing single mothers, as she feels she has no role model to draw upon in order to raise her own daughter.

The Welfare State – is a system whereby the state provides support to its citizens, and government expenditure on the welfare state is intended to improve societal areas such as health, education, employment and social security. Dante's experience with social services in the novel reflect an essential dichotomy of the welfare state; he is able to draw upon it for support but also has to face the power the state has to take away his daughter. The stigma of 'living off the state' is also reflected in the assumption of the woman in the shop that he is 'living off benefits'.