



Slam Poetry

Key Stage 3

An Introduction to Slam Poetry

A poetry slam is a competition at which poets read or recite original work.

Poetry slams can feature a broad range of voices, styles, cultural traditions, and approaches to writing and performance.

Some poets are closely associated with the vocal delivery style found in hip-hop music and draw heavily on the tradition of dub poetry, a rhythmic and politicized genre belonging to black and particularly West Indian culture. Others employ an unrhyming narrative formula. Some use traditional theatric devices including shifting voices and tones, while others may recite an entire poem in ironic monotone. Some poets use nothing but their words to deliver a poem, while others stretch the boundaries of the format, tap-dancing or beatboxing or using highly choreographed movements.



Perform Live

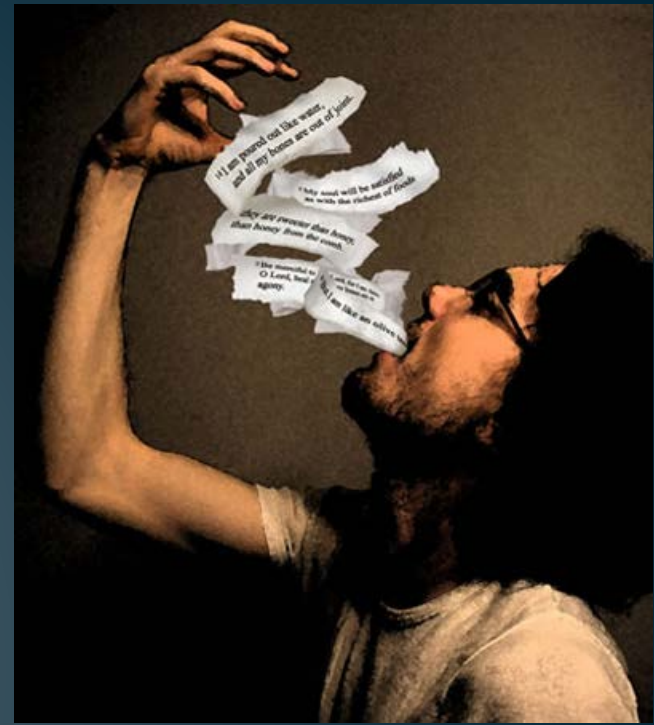
Our aim is for each of you to write and perform an original poem.

Slam Poetry is performance poetry so you should expect to perform your poem at least once. Like with Shakespeare by Heart, you will learn your words and perform in class for your peers.

The best Slam Poets will be selected to perform live at 'The Big Read' on Saturday 12th March.



1. Make it Original.
2. Time - Each poet has 3 minutes to perform. While practicing your poem, time yourself to make sure you do not go over the time limit.
3. Simple & Relatable. Your poem should be able to reach your audience the first time it's heard. Read and perform it for family & friends before competing. Ask them what is clear and what is not. Choose themes and subjects that many people can relate to, like relationships, politics, religion, insecurity, family-social issues, etc. Your poem should be clear and convey a message.
4. Rhythmic & Passionate. Your poem should have a rhythm that shows through your passionate performance. A slam poem moves the audience through different moods. How the poem is performed is at least as important as the content if not more! (No pressure.)



THE PERFORMANCE
OF POETRY
IS AN ART,
JUST AS MUCH
AN ART
AS THE ART
OF WRITING IT.

Become a Slam Poet in five steps – Gayle Danley

Let's Begin...

With enough passion and practice, becoming a slam poet is within your reach. Explore a distant memory on paper, then read it out loud. Edit. Try reading it out loud again, and add your finishing touches. Gayle Danley offers five steps to being a slam poet -- while being downright poetic in the process.

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/become-a-slam-poet-in-five-steps-gayle-danley#watch>

Please Resist Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-HED2UXwbw>

