

# FREEDOM

to write



## ***Freedom* theme – Guidance Notes**

The three ideas offered here are to support students writing poems on the theme of *Freedom*. All three provide structures and models to aid writing list poems: these are straightforward and impactful with the repetitions building detail, pace and overall meaning.

These ideas are also essentially writing aids. Students can and should talk through overall thoughts about the theme of *Freedom* and how each creative writing idea presents this, but the focus is on the practical activity of writing – hopefully getting quickly into the spirit and crafting of the approaches.

As with all list poems, it is important to encourage students to write as much as possible without over-thinking this. As a list poem is a sequence of independent lines, these singular ones are often best produced as a stream of consciousness production line! The revising and editing process is an important next step when they can be tweaked, honed or even discarded.

## **Freedom to Freedom from Freedom by Freedom with**

There are two Student Sheets for this: [1] which treats the theme broadly and quite ‘lightly’; and [2] which focuses on the theme’s more obvious intention.

For [1], this ‘lighter’ approach allows for the ‘quirky and imaginative’ lines, as with the single quatrain example beginning *Freedom is a skateboard to glide*, suggesting here the freedom of movement and tapping in, perhaps, to a familiar activity. It is a playful approach to the theme.

For [2], this more ‘serious’ approach is for that earnest embrace of the theme, and many students will want to address this. The model line *Freedom to avoid hate* suggests that focus.

There are two additional resources: a basic quatrain grid that can be handed out to students [uploaded for tablets] as a clear prompt for each line in a quatrain; and for those who require further examples/support, a full poem to illustrate, though this can for many be too much and prevent them creating their own ideas.

## Freedom is... Randomised

There are two resource sheets for this, and the student one should provide enough detail for explaining the process of working through.

The word-grid again provides a structure to help all students to write a list poem, but especially those who might otherwise struggle to generate many independent ideas.

The random nature of this approach can be as much fun as it can be striking, the latter when that 'accident of meaning' occurs and unexpected lines are produced.

Possible extension: students who are keen could be encouraged to produce their own extra words for the columns **The action** and **The detail**.

## Freedom is Where?

The student sheet for this approach is again detailed enough to provide guidance through the thinking, planning and writing process.

The poem by Tagore is a powerful example both of a real historical and poetic declaration of Freedom, and many students will hopefully respond to how writing, as with other art forms [for example, protest songs], are an important part of how people articulate and strive for their freedoms.

As with previous list poem ideas, a stream of consciousness approach to generating lines will allow students to firstly produce content and then have that to craft and shape into their poem, thinking carefully about, for example, sequencing and/or juxtaposing lines.

Possible extension: for students who want to write further, and use another model for their work, there is an extra resource which is the English translation of the Paul Éluard poem *Liberté*, written in 1942 during the German occupation of France. This poem speaks directly to the powerful theme of Liberty/Freedom.

It has its own distinctive pattern of lines beginning *On* and then the fourth in each quatrain with the *I write your name*, leading to the final which for our version would be *Freedom*. This could be edited down to fewer quatrains!