



Home Is

List poems are wonderfully simple and wonderfully powerful.

The 'beginning' of the list poem *Home Is* could be used as a starter activity or as a prompt for individual writing. The 'complete' poem could be used as a guide at any time in either approach.

Starter

Project the 'beginning' *Home Is* and, quite simply, get students to suggest other lines. This can either be spontaneous or through group discussion and ideas depending on how much time you want to spend on this.

Some discussion/use of prompt sheets on how to avoid stating the literal could be useful. Students should think of what the word 'home' suggests and signifies to them in the literal sense but then consider ways of representing this obliquely/metaphorically. Two illustrative ideas from the poem could be:

- 'home' as a place of escape, and thus the reference to *underground tunnel*
- 'home' as a place of solace/refuge, and thus the reference to *return ticket*

A whole class/whole year/whole school [whole family] 'Home Is' poem could be produced and circulated by whatever means are available.

Individual Writing

Students are quite good at writing list poems if they have a model. The approach to encouraging this will obviously be similar to above, but more advice could be given on the juxtaposition of lines [humorous/serious]; repetition in lines; in-jokes based on research around the theme [*home is where the hart...*; *a castle in its cliché*]; avoiding rhyme as much as possible which limits expression, or throwing in the odd one for effect, and so on.

Individual writers should be encouraged to write as much as possible without worrying about the above in the first instance: this is a poem to edit and craft by removing duff lines and rearranging the good ones to provide contrast and impact.