

## Single-letter poems

*Literacy/Drama*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To create poems
- To explore language and poetry
- To develop descriptive vocabulary.

### SKILLS TARGETED

- Language
- Poetry writing
- Descriptive writing
- Co-operation
- Speaking and listening.

### RESOURCES

- Paper and pens
- Example photograph of rehearsal character lists.

### SUGGESTED TIME SCALE

- 20 minutes for the poems, 1 session to create a performance

#### Step 1

Explain to the children that in the rehearsal process for *War Horse* the puppeteers devised lists of characteristics for the horses they played – to help them understand their characters. These lists are full of beautiful adjectives describing the horses – they are almost like poems

#### Step 2

Choose a character or a moment in the story that you would like the children to describe. You could use a photograph as a stimulus if you wish.

Ask the children to work in groups of five or six to make a list of words that describe the moment or scene

#### Step 3

Once the children have developed a long list of adjectives, they can order the words – editing or repeating as much as they like – to create a list poem. For example,

### VARIATION

You could challenge the children to make their list using only one letter! Each group gets a different letter. For example, Tophorn's Death using only the letter S:

Suffering Soldier  
Sad, Solitary, Silenced  
Sorrowful Soldier  
Salute

#### Step 4

The groups can perform their poems, finding actions to demonstrate the character or scene while speaking their words.

### SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Children will use descriptive adjectives to understand their character or scene
- They will create poetry by ordering lists of words
- They will work together to create the lists and performances.

