

Spring Clean Week 2025: Write a poem



Stage: **P4-S2**



Time: **1 hour**

Purpose: We want to help young people understand the issues around litter and waste and give them tools to help tackle problems in their local area. In this activity pupils will create a poem to help them use their voice to create change.

Introduction to the activity

Following on from our Live Lesson with children's author, poet and playwright Joseph Coelho, we invite pupils to write their own poems about Litter and Waste. This activity will be completed in conjunction with a Poetry Prompt video, featuring Konnie Huq. [Poetry Prompts](#) are Joseph's project as part of his role as Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022 – 2024. Along with Joseph, we want all young people to feel confident with language and be able to express themselves through different creative mediums, including poetry. Pupils can use the poems they create to spread their messages and inspire change.

Activity

To complete this activity pupils will require writing materials. It would be great if pupils can write their poems onto something that would otherwise be thrown away. During the video Joseph recommends writing poems onto CDs using sharpies. However, it is just as effective for pupils to write their poems onto scrap paper or any other waste items that you have available.

1. Open the poetry prompt video '[Reducing waste with Konnie Huq](#)' and watch the introduction by Joseph and Konnie on some of their ideas to reduce waste.
2. Pause the video at 2.25 minutes and have a discussion in class about how we can reduce waste through reuse and fixing things. These ideas will be used by pupils to create their poems.
3. Start the video again. Joseph and Konnie discuss options for what pupils can write their poems on. Pupils may want to start by writing onto scrap paper and then transfer the finished poems onto something else.
4. Now it is time for pupils to write their poems. There is time in the video for pupils to write along with Joseph and Konnie, but you can also pause the video to give pupils longer.
5. Once pupils have written their poems, restart the video to hear Joseph and Konnie's poems along with a challenge to do three of the things included in pupils' poems during the week. You could ask pupils to read out their poems in groups or as a class and then select three things that they would like to try and do as a group effort over the following week.
6. Encourage pupils to share their poems with the rest of the school and at home to try and get others involved with their ideas to reduce waste.
7. We would love to see pupil's poems. You can send them to us by email at education@keepscotlandbeautiful.org.