

TASK 3: Poem to short story

What do I have to do? Choose a poem and write a narrative that expands on the poem's theme or message. Your narrative can either fill in details leading up to the start of the poem or continue from where the poem ends. Select one of the poems on the stimulus sheet and analyse its message

SECTION 1: Planning

- Read a range of poems from the various poets listed on the task sheet until you find a style, form or subject that appeals to you. Remember that you don't have to identify the poem you like best, but rather, the poem from which you can develop the best idea.
- Once you have chosen your poem there are a number of areas to research. You will need to take notes concerning a range of contexts associated with your poem, in addition to developing ideas about plot, characters, complication, etc.
- You will need to:-
 - be original,
 - show a clear relationship to the original poem and
 - write appropriately for the place and timeframe on which you are focused.
- It is also important to be aware of the context in which either the poem is set or the period in which the poet was writing and their purpose for doing so in order for you to write in a way that will seem authentic for the audience of your story. For example, if you set your story in WW2 and your characters speak with the discourse of a rapper from the Bronx this will seem a little jarring.
- Thus it may be easier to set your story in the present, and simply develop a meaningful way of translating the spirit, events, setting or characters of the poem into contemporary times.

SECTION 2: Research

- If you choose a poem set in another time or place, you will need to do research.
- What are the areas that you might need to address in order to appreciate the background that may inform the events of your story and the actions and values of the characters? A simple list could be:
 - Geographic context: country, state, urban, rural, climate, terrain
 - Social context: rich, poor, race, ethnicity, male, female
 - Historical context: era, time frame eg. WW1 or 2, the Depression, the 1960s, 2004
 - Cultural context: rappers, nerds, sportsmen, Afro-American, migrant, etc
- These contexts are important as they influence what might be happening at the time, the complications that may arise, the way your characters will react and the ideas, attitudes and beliefs embedded in the text.
- Make sure you fully understand the context before you begin to write your narrative from your chosen poem as a good writer wants to add realism to their text.