



How to become a spoken word poet!

This is a guide to help you become a spoken word poet and some useful tips when performing via social media or on stage.

In this workshop you will have the opportunity to learn about spoken word poetry; the importance of performance; drama in your performance; how to entertain an audience and how to enjoy and experience a new form of poetry.

You will need:

- Active listening when watching the video.
- Pen and paper for your notes and ideas.
- Space to practice your poetry performance.

Observation task:

This is a reminder of what you are looking out for when watching the performance of “Empire Calling”

Style (Is it funny? Serious? Do I ask questions? Do I make statements?)

Contents (What is the poem about? Does the subject matter come across?)

Language (Is my performance clear?)

Sounds (How do the words sound?)

Images (What are some of the images you are left with during and after my performance?)

Performance, top tips:

- Introduce your poem at the start (What is it about? Why did you write it? or who is it for?)
- Wait until your audience is ready.
- Learn your poem so practice, practice, practice.
- Don't worry if you make a mistake in your performance, breathe and carry on.
- Respect your words (This poem is important to you, share that emotion or feeling.)
- Nerves can be a good thing (this means you care about your work and want to get it right)
- Record your poem (get used to seeing and hearing yourself perform, this will help edit and develop your performance)
- Leave the audience with the last line ringing in their ears
- Take the applause (whether on screen or on-stage, welcome and accept the reaction)

Drama in your performance:

- Get inside your poem (get the attention of your audience.)
- Breathe and take your time.
- Use your body to express the words.
- Be expressive with your face and gestures.
- Use contrast. (Find your rhythm in your poem, the highs and lows in your delivery of the words and sentences.)
- Put gaps between the sentences in your poem if you want to control the speed.
- Enjoy the silence, this means people are listening.
- Make eye contact if you want to deliver a line you love.
- Your poetry performance is a relationship with the audience.
- Enjoy yourself

You are now ready to start your journey to become a spoken word poet!