

English: KS2/3

Poems in The Stones

On site and/or in school Activity: Teacher Notes



Curriculum Links:

English – spoken language and composition, exploring poetry,

History – as part of an in depth Local History study, what life was like here in the past.

Drama – develop a script and role-play based on the story

PHSE – Life journeys, coping with death and loss

Computing – research gravestone poetry, phrases and quotes. Poems about death and loss

Suggested prior knowledge:

Characteristics of poetry. Structure and form, how can it be used. Where can it be found other than in books?

Activity Objectives:

To provide an opportunity for creative writing and use of poetic language and imagery

Key Vocabulary:

Poem, meter, rhyme, emotion, feeling, sadness, uplifting

Introduction:

Choose either of the poems included in this section:

1. **For The Fallen** – by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) as featured in **The Lost Twenty Nine** – by Jean Weston and Marlene Price

2. **Elegy written in a country Churchyard** – by Thomas Gray (1716-1771)

Main Task/s: Either -

- Using either the **Poem Sheets** or a flip chart and post-it notes, share some words, feelings and ideas about the cemetery. How does it look, how does it make you feel, what can you see, smell hear? Who is buried there? Discuss what theme your poem might have ie: nature, feelings, memories etc

- Explore the gravestones and write down any poetry used. Are there any common themes and/or words used.

Plenary: Edit your poems in school and share with a partner and the class. Discuss the content and evaluate. Create a final version.

Suggested Follow up and Extension Activities:

Local history/literacy displays

Materials required:

Copy of chosen poem sheets

Post-it notes/flip chart

Whiteboard/pencils/paper

Useful websites:

www.lyeandwollescote.info - for historic and current information about how you can help

www.cwgc.org - Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Learning and Resources linked to the World Wars.