## English Literature

**Unseen Poetry** 

## **Unseen poetry – reading strategies**

Your first reading should be focused on the 'meaning' of the poem.

- 1. Look at the question this will tell you what the poem is about.
- 2. Look at the title this will help you to interpret meaning.
- 3. When reading the poem focus on what you think their 'view' is on the subject.
- 4. Make it simple- do they have a positive or negative view of the topic?
- 5. Then you find evidence- how do you know they feel this way?
- 6. Look at the poem, does the structure reveal anything to you?
- 7. Look at the first and last lines of the poem- is there a change?
- 8. Find any interesting language techniques that have been used and annotate them on the poem.
- 9. Can you see enjambment, caesura? If so- where is it and WHY do you think they have used it? What does it tell you about the speakers' feelings.
- 10. Pick out interesting quotations and annotate on the sheet what you are going to say about them.

## Literature: Unseen Poetry

Go through each box – in some poems there WON'T be anything to talk about in some of the boxes – just talk about things you CAN find.

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Trees By Joyce Kilmer	Title/opening/closing: 2 minutes What could you say about the title, the first or the final lines?	Repetition: 2 minutes What could you say about repetition: anaphora, epiphora, alliteration etc.?
I think that I shall never see		
A poem lovely as a tree.		
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest		
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;		
A tree that looks at God all day,		
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;	<b>Long/short/IDIE/lists:</b> 2 minutes What could you say about the types of line in this poem? Is there anything interesting?	Imagery: metaphor/symbolism: <u>2 minutes</u> What could you say about contrast, metaphor, simile, pathetic fallacy, etc. or symbolic ideas?
A tree that may in summer wear		
A nest of robins in her hair;		
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;		
Who intimately lives with rain.		
Poems are made by fools like me,		
But only God can make a tree.		
Vocabulary: 2 minutes  Are there any powerful words or words with specific connotations? What TYPES of words are there? (nouns, verbs, adjectives etc.)	Write: 20 minutes  How does the writer present trees in this poem?  Aim to write at least two paragraphs in this time. Go onto lined paper if you need to.	

## **Literature: Unseen Poetry** Go through each box – in some poems there WON'T be anything to talk about in some of the boxes – just talk about things you CAN find. Title/opening/closing: 2 minutes Repetition: 2 minutes Harlem What could you say about the title, the first or the final lines? What could you say about repetition: anaphora, epiphora, alliteration etc.? By Langston Hughes What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore— And then run? Long/short/IDIE/lists: 2 minutes Imagery: metaphor/symbolism: 2 minutes Does it stink like rotten meat? What could you say about contrast, metaphor, simile, pathetic fallacy, etc. or symbolic ideas? What could you say about the types of line in this poem? Is there anything interesting? Or crust and sugar overlike a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags like a heavy load. Or does it explode? Vocabulary: 2 minutes Are there any powerful words or words with specific connotations? What TYPES of words are there? (nouns, Write: 20 minutes verbs, adjectives etc.) Harlem is a place in New York City How does the writer present Harlem in this poem? Aim to write at least two paragraphs in this time. Go onto lined paper if you need to.