

## It's time for a slam! A Poetry Slam!

This week is all about 'Slam Poetry' – a form of performance poetry! But don't worry! *Anyone can do it.* Trust me, in the past few years some of my favourite poetry ever has come from children in Year 5.

But what is Slam Poetry, I hear you cry?

In the words of Harry Baker, 2012 Slam poetry world champion:

"Slam poetry is a format come up in America 30 years ago as a way of tricking people in to going to poetry events by putting an exciting word like 'slam' on the end. Each performer gets 3 minutes to perform and then random audience members would hold up some score cards" which meant that the audience gave direct feedback to the poet.

(Basically, it's a fun poetry competition where performers recite their poems and at the end, the one with the highest score wins! *The best bit?* Often the poems don't sound like poems – often sounding more like rap or even a story or argument with themselves! )

Often the poets are given a topic and they have free reign to create their poem however they like. The idea though is that the *poems are performed, not just written down.*

Have a look at the two poems below. *They are well worth a watch* as performance poetry should be performed, not read! The words for both of these poems are found in the [Dig a little deeper into poetry](#) link, so you can see which features I really like and that you could steal for your own poems if you would like to look at these poems in more detail.

*Click on the links to listen to the poems!*

**[Face To Face –Sugar J Poet](#)**

**[Harry Baker – Paper People](#)**

When you have watched the poems:

*Now it's your turn! Have a go! You will surprise yourself how well it goes.*