



## Part 1: KS4 English Lesson Plan

### Centenary of the First World War



You can use the accompanying PowerPoint presentation to help you with the activities below.

Title	Creating a Poem to say Thank You
Timing	1 hour (approximately)
National Curriculum Links	<p>English - Key Stage 4</p> <p><b>Writing - composition</b></p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <p>Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapting their writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences: to describe, narrate, explain, instruct, give and respond to information, and argue</li> <li>Selecting and organising ideas, facts and key points, and citing evidence, details and quotation effectively and pertinently for support and emphasis</li> <li>Selecting, and using judiciously, vocabulary, grammar, form, and structural and organisational features, including rhetorical devices, to reflect audience, purpose and context, and using Standard English where appropriate</li> </ul> <p>Make notes, draft and write, including using information provided by others (e.g. writing a letter from key points provided; drawing on and using information from a presentation)</p> <p>Revise, edit and proof-read through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflecting on whether their draft achieves the intended impact</li> <li>Restructuring their writing, and amending its grammar and vocabulary to Improve coherence, consistency, clarity and overall effectiveness</li> <li>Paying attention to the accuracy and effectiveness of grammar, punctuation and spelling.</li> </ul>

<p>Aims / Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reflect on and understand the power of poetry as a way of communicating and expressing your feelings, experiences and thoughts</li> <li>• To reflect on the importance of saying Thank You to the First World War generation</li> <li>• To reflect on how and why saying Thank You relates to our world today</li> <li>• To reflect on a personal reason or motivation for saying Thank You (this could be because of your life today and/or a family connection to the events of the First World War)</li> <li>• To understand how people have used poetry to express their feelings or ideas</li> <li>• To create (or start creating) a poem to say Thank You to the generation of the First World War</li> <li>• Every student in the class to be entered into the competition</li> </ul>
<p><b>Starter</b></p>	<p>Question: Is there a poem that anyone in the class thinks is brilliant?</p> <p>Give an example - perhaps one of the poems the class may have looked at previously; or a poem which you think is brilliant, and explain why. This does need to be connected to saying Thank You to the First World War generation.</p> <p>Or you can use the example given below.</p> <p>Video example: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7VkiqLvlkE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7VkiqLvlkE</a></p> <p>Discussion question for students: What are the specific reasons for this poem being so effective?</p> <p>Possible Answers:</p> <p>The way that it makes you FEEL.</p> <p>It TEACHES you something that you did not know.</p> <p>It TAKES you somewhere you have never been.</p> <p>It helps you to look at something familiar in a NEW and SURPRISING way.</p> <p>Discuss the following points with the class:</p> <p>What are the key things that a great poem does to us?</p> <p>Why are poems important?</p> <p>What is a poem?</p>
<p>Introducing the Competition</p>	<p>Introduce the Competition with the following message:</p> <p>Today we are asking you to write a poem that focusses on the theme of saying Thank You to the First World War generation. This means saying Thank You not</p>

<p>Introducing the Themes of 'Thank You'</p>	<p>only to those that served but also to those people at home paving the way for change.</p> <p>The First World War was the most costly and terrible war the world had ever seen. This year The Royal British Legion will lead the nation in saying Thank You to that generation, to honour the values they lived by and the legacy they left to us.</p> <p>Part of this year's events is a national competition for you to enter with great prizes and opportunities leading up to Remembrance Sunday in November.</p> <p>Explain how students will be entered into the competition:</p> <p>The deadline for entries is 11th September and the poem does not need to be completed today but our school deadline is: _____ (please insert your school deadline into the PowerPoint presentation for this lesson).</p> <p>You will give your entries to me so that we can make sure we enter all of the entries on your behalf as well as helping you to create the best poem that you can write.</p> <p><b>We will say Thank You to 'all who served, sacrificed, and changed our world'.</b></p> <p>Introduce the six major themes of the Thank You movement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth</li> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Pioneers</li> <li>• Arts</li> <li>• Armed Forces</li> <li>• Women</li> </ul> <p>Which theme is the most interesting to you? Which theme has the strongest connection for you in your life today?</p> <p>Explore the six themes with the following slides:</p> <p><b>Commonwealth</b></p> <p>On the battlefield, volunteers from across the Commonwealth served alongside each other. British Forces included Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims whose descendants play a central role in our culture today.</p> <p>For example:</p>
--	---

Your poem could say Thank You to the generation of Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims from around the Commonwealth who fought in the war but who also contributed to the strong relationship that Britain and people from these faiths enjoy today.

### **Children**

As well as the adults, children and teenagers around the country also rallied to 'do their bit' for the war effort. Many helped to raise money for the war effort and worked the land to help produce more food which was greatly needed.

For example:

Your poem could say Thank You to the many children (some younger than the school leaving age of 12) who worked in factories and on farms. This contributed to the war effort and was also useful for their families' income during this difficult time. It is thought that around 600,000 children were at work during the war, and their contribution was vital for the whole country.

### **Pioneers**

During the war there were major advances in medicine, manufacturing and innovation. Pioneering doctors and nurses vastly increased our understanding and use of reconstructive surgery as well as x-rays and blood transfusions.

For example:

Your poem could say Thank You for the creation of Stainless Steel - steel that does not rust or corrode. Stainless steel is used today in hospitals for vital instruments which help to save lives, as well as in making knives and forks. Harry Brearley from Sheffield was asked to develop a better metal for guns, and made the discovery of stainless steel: it has helped to create the modern world.

### **Arts**

The war also influenced poets, painters, composers and writers. It changed arts and culture forever and its impact and influence are still being felt today.

For example:

Your poem could say Thank You for the Middle-earth. JRR Tolkien served as a soldier at the Battle of the Somme. He admitted that many of the places and experiences in The Lord of the Rings were influenced by what he endured in the First World War.

### **Armed Forces**

The First World War resulted in huge losses, with over 1 million British & Commonwealth soldiers losing their lives on the battlefields and many more injured. Despite this loss and an economy in ruins the First World War generation rebuilt their world for the better for everyone in the country.

For example:

	<p>Your poem could say Thank You to The Royal British Legion which was founded in 1921. The Legion provided financial and emotional support both for soldiers who returned home but fell into difficulty and for their families. The Legion has made a huge impact on the lives of millions of people and is now part of the fabric of the nation.</p> <p><b>Women</b></p> <p>Across Britain women played a huge role working in factories and making munitions. This vital work paved the way for women gaining the right to vote in 1918.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>Your poem could say Thank You to the women who worked in the factories in dangerous conditions, became police officers (for the first time) and worked on public transport. They all contributed hugely to the war effort, and all this helped to change the position of women in society forever.</p>
Video	<p>Show the Thank You Video (2.17) to help students to start thinking about why saying Thank You is so important:</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nuoPt6-9Ps">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nuoPt6-9Ps</a></p>
Discussion	<p><b>We will say Thank You to 'all who served, sacrificed, and changed our world'.</b></p> <p>Explain that the students should make it personal. It is important that the poem means something to the students, so they should think about a personal connection to saying Thank You. This connection can relate to the past, the present or the future.</p> <p>Question for students: Why is saying Thank You important for you?</p> <p>Think about the following (discussion questions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the six themes of Thank You are particularly important or interesting to you?</li> <li>• How do you think the generation of the First World War has contributed to making your country and world a better place?</li> <li>• How do you think the generation of the First World War has contributed to making your life in the UK better?</li> <li>• Do you know if a relative of yours was involved in the First World War either on the battlefield or at home?</li> </ul>

Starting the poem	<p>If students cannot answer these questions immediately then they need to research this topic further as part of their homework and in their overall efforts in completing an entry for the competition.</p> <p>Think of the most important reason for saying Thank You. Write it down and explain YOUR choice.</p> <p>Discussion of the task: Students can share with a partner their choice of a reason. Some students should be selected to share their reasons with the class.</p> <p>Outline the basic rules for the poetry competition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All poems must have a title and must not exceed 40 lines in length.</li> <li>2. Poems must be the original work of the entrant.</li> <li>3. Poems should be typed on a single sheet of A4 in black ink at a minimum size of 12pt, and submitted electronically in one of the following formats: .mov .avi .mpeg .mpg .mkv .jpg .jpeg .png .gif .psd .pdf .mp3 .wav OR by using copy and paste into the 'Poem' field on the online forms.</li> <li>4. Uploaded files must not exceed 1gb.</li> <li>5. Entries may be written in any language.</li> </ol> <p>Discuss with students the following questions and discuss the answers or highlight them to remind students what the lesson is about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does a poem have to include?</li> <li>• What are the key ingredients?</li> <li>• What have we learnt about good poetry today and so far in this subject?</li> </ul>
Written Tasks	<p>Use the following written tasks for students to help them focus on starting their poetic response to this competition and theme.</p> <p>What are the different styles of poem? Do you know any of the following types or forms of poetry?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Sonnet Haiku Free Verse Rhyming couplets</p> <p>Can you think of any more?</p>

	<p>1. Which one would be most suitable for your poem? Explain why.</p> <p>2. Students now need to start thinking about the words that they want to use. Students should think about what they are saying Thank You for and write down five key words that should be included in their poem.</p> <p>3. Students start to write their poem. Perhaps play the Thank You video again or play some music that will help the students to be creative.</p> <p>Some inspiring music from World War One: <a href="http://musicofthegreatwar.org/">http://musicofthegreatwar.org/</a></p>
<b>Plenary</b>	<p>Peer review</p> <p>Share your poem with a partner and they can feedback on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What works well?</li> <li>• How does it make you feel?</li> <li>• Is it clear what it is about and how gratitude is being expressed?</li> <li>• Any mistakes?</li> <li>• Any ideas or contributions that you could make?</li> </ul> <p>Make sure that both students in their pairs help each other.</p>
Extension Activities	Write a paragraph to explain your poem and why you have chosen the subject as well as what it means to you.
Homework	<p>Complete your poem to say Thank You.</p> <p>School Deadline: XXXX National Deadline: 11th September 2018</p>
Plenary	<p>Using the Top Tips and Guidance for your Poems from The Royal British Legion is a good way of checking that students are on the right path with their entry.</p> <p>Make sure your entry is:</p> <p><b>Respectful</b> for the service and sacrifices made.</p> <p><b>Thankful</b> for their contribution to our way of life and freedoms.</p> <p><b>Inspired</b> by their example and contribution.</p> <p><b>Stirring</b> and emotional but not celebratory, jingoistic or militaristic.</p> <p><b>Connected</b> with today's Britain.</p> <p><b>Forward</b>, not backward looking.</p>

	<p><b>Inspirational</b> and not desolate.</p> <p>Do your ideas and entry so far meet these expectations?</p>
Resources/Preparation requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take a look at The Royal British Legion's Creative Competition page with the details on how to enter as well as the terms and conditions. Look at the specific rules on entering a poem (students can also enter a piece of art or a song) and the different forms for entering different entries. <a href="http://Rbl.org.uk/thankyou-comp">http://Rbl.org.uk/thankyou-comp</a></li> <li>2. Prepare a poem that you think is an example of a great poem for starter activity and prepare reasons why and answers to the discussion questions above. Add the poem or a link to it being read on the PowerPoint presentation.  Some good collections of the First World War poems being read aloud can be found below: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPoFiRrHslxNjKvG3DqleloDuS-LCgMCv">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPoFiRrHslxNjKvG3DqleloDuS-LCgMCv</a></li> <li>3. Work out an internal school deadline for entries so that you have time to help students and to submit them in good time for the national competition deadline of 11th September.</li> <li>4. Ensure that students are sitting in pairings that will be productive. There are some moments in the lesson where students are working as pairs.</li> <li>5. Take a look at the following websites (click on the links) that can help you prepare for the lesson. They can be given to the students to help them with their homework, research and in completing their poem for the competition.</li> </ol> <p>Use the following to help you with your further research (external sites and sources):</p> <p><a href="https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/other-resources">https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/other-resources</a></p> <p><a href="http://theday.co.uk/big-issue/the-first-world-war">http://theday.co.uk/big-issue/the-first-world-war</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nb93y">http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nb93y</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=World%20War%20One&amp;suggid=urn%3Abbc%3Aprogrammes%3Ap02sx794">https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=World%20War%20One&amp;suggid=urn%3Abbc%3Aprogrammes%3Ap02sx794</a></p> <p>Has Poetry distorted our view of the war? <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z38rq6f">http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z38rq6f</a></p> <p>Sir Andrew Motion's Top 10 Tips for writing and being a poet: <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-29538180">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-29538180</a></p>



Pioneers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-26935867>

Commonwealth

<http://www.ww1commonwealthcontribution.org/>

Women

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/12-things-you-didnt-know-about-women-in-the-first-world-war>

Arts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zgr9kqt>

Children

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-ways-children-took-part-in-the-first-world-war>

Armed Forces

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/ztx66sg/revision/6>