

**WRITE
2
SPEAK**



TEACHING RESOURCE



**A SPOKEN WORD PROGRAMME
PRODUCED BY WAC ARTS IN
COLLABORATION WITH
WRITE2SPEAK**





WHAT IS SPOKEN WORD?

Spoken word is performance poetry, whatever is in your heart and on your mind, when expressed through your voice is spoken word!

It can come in many forms it can be poetry, rap even a song and I can rhyme but it certainly doesn't have to. Ultimately spoken word can be anything and it's for everyone.

It's often hard to form the right words in your mind, so this is why we, Write 2 Speak! Over the course of our sessions we hope you will gain an understanding of what spoken word means to you, in the meantime, [click here](#) to listen to what spoken word is to us

WARM UP – WHEN I SAY, YOU SAY

Just like any other style of performance, it is important to warm up our bodies, minds and voices.

Opposite games can be a great way to channel concentration and this game can be played moving around the room or sat at a table if space is limited. The game is simple and requires the teacher to lead students in a series of call and response activities.

Examples

“When I say Blue, you say Red!”

“Blue” - “Red” - “Blue” - “Red”

“When I say Green, you say Yellow!”

“When I say In, you say Out!”

“When I say Up, you say Down!”

“When I say Sun, you say Moon!”

“When I say Day, you say Night!”

“When I say Forwards, you say Backwards!”

“When I say Go, you say Stop!”





WARM UP – ALL MY PEOPLE

All my people is a great game for encouraging healthy light-hearted discussions and allows the group to explore their similarities and differences. It can also work as a useful idea generator for spoken word pieces.

When I say “All my people like, Strawberry Ice-cream” if you agree, Stand up!

Leaving a few beats between

“All my people like” and “Strawberry Ice-Cream” will have the class on the edge of their seats in anticipation!!!

Examples:

“All my people like, going on holiday”

“All my people like, Pizza”

“All my people like, playing in the park”

“All my people like vegetables”

“All my people like swimming”

If time allows, encourage the students either standing or sitting to share their opinion on the ‘all my people’ prompt.

You may wish to encourage your students to lead the activity by choosing their own prompts to share with the rest of the class.

These seemingly “random” prompts allow the participants brains to start firing as they are talking about things they like or care about.



WRITING EXERCISES



Once your group have warmed up and started thinking about different topics, it's time to introduce key writing exercises.

A starter template or writing prompt is a great way for children and young people to take the first steps in their journey to become spoken word artists.

Here's an example of one of our favourite writing prompts!

If _____ could talk, what would they say?

With this exercise you can begin to introduce topics that you'd like the group to focus on or ask them to choose their own.

The more inanimate the better! This helps the imagination flow!

Themes:

Nature/Environment

School/Education

Technology

Food

Examples:

Please say out-load and/or write down the first thing that comes to mind when I say the word(s)...

If you have asked participants to write these down, you may want to go around and ask what they wrote for each theme

Nature/Environment: Trees, Ocean, Birds, Air, Rainbows, Leaves

School/Education: Books, Learning, Maths, Pens

Technology: Computers, Smart phones, Gaming, Food, Science

Food: Yummy, Pizza, Sausages, My Family, Dinner

WRITING EXERCISES



The class can now choose one of the topics mentioned in the game to start writing their own individual poems. Here are some examples that you may wish to share with them:

“If **Trees** could talk, what would they say?
I stand alone swaying in the breeze all day,
I talk to the sun to make oxygen for you,
If Lumberjack’s cut us all down, what will you do!
The birds live in me and insects too,
Above my green leaves, I see white and blue,
Through the soil my ancient roots run through”
I love being me, do you love being you?!”

“If **Books** could talk, what would they say”
I have so much knowledge come learn today!
I have many friends,
Non or fiction even a smarty pants his name is Diction,
If you think about it, I’m kind of like air,
You can find me everywhere!
In schools, libraries, houses of prayer,
Even chucked in a bag under the stairs.
Look a]er me please, I have lots to say,
I may even help you find your way.

“If **Smartphones** could talk, what would they say,
Hey, can you please stop scrolling on me all day,
I know that’s what I’m meant for,
But I want more,
When humans are done with me, I get tossed to the floor.
I like being tapped on when people are using the keyboard,
Or when they’re on holiday and want to press record.
I’m oh so tired at the end of the day,
I’m on 10%, about to fade away,
I need to recharge with my cable and lay to rest,
Far away from my bed,
Over there on my desk”

USEFUL LINKS



Write 2 Speak -

<https://write2speak.co.uk/>

BBC Spoken Word Explained -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/231r4ZNg3LTSM3sH4sZmCjs/spoken-word-explained>

Apples and Snakes: A short history of spoken word -

<https://youtu.be/S4HV3t1nZgo?si=Pib8zZINsY68T-Pv>