



Activities:  
exploring  
the  
landscape

Landscape  
poems



What  
you  
need

Paper  
Pencil  
Clipboards

Time

15-30 minutes

### The question

What words and feelings describe this landscape?

### The activity

A very easy way to encourage simple poetry in response to the landscape is to use list poems. A list poem is quite simply a list of words or very short phrases, such as:

Views  
Country  
Trees shaking  
Water sparkling

Start by asking the children in silence to sit or stand and look at the view. Ask them to write down any words that describe what they see, hear or smell, randomly on the page. Then ask them to focus on part of the landscape, e.g. the water or a group of trees, again in silence. Ask them to add any additional words to their page. Finally, ask them to look again at the whole view or part of it and think about how it makes them feel. Again, they should add words to their page.

Then do an activity which involves movement – ‘give one, take one’. Each individual meets one other person, asks for one of their words and gives one of their own in return. They decide whether to write this new word down. They immediately move on to a new person – this is a quickfire sharing activity.

There are different ways in which children could now create their list poem.

- Children could work alone to select words from their page and decide the order to write them in
- Groups could gather together and choose words to add to a list poem.
- A group could add a word from their page to the list poem in turn, saying it before writing it.

If there is time, children will enjoy performing their poems in the setting, even if only to a partner.

### Digital learning

Children could work together to create list poems on the tablet using Microsoft Word or Google Docs.

An additional option is to use the app CamFind (ask the school to install it before the visit). Using the app, children take a picture of something in the landscape. The app is designed to ‘recognise’ things from this photo (with varying results). CamFind generates words to describe the item in the photo. It may be fun for the children to write down some or all of these words, as these become a list.



### Curriculum links

English – creating poems, vocabulary selection and development

