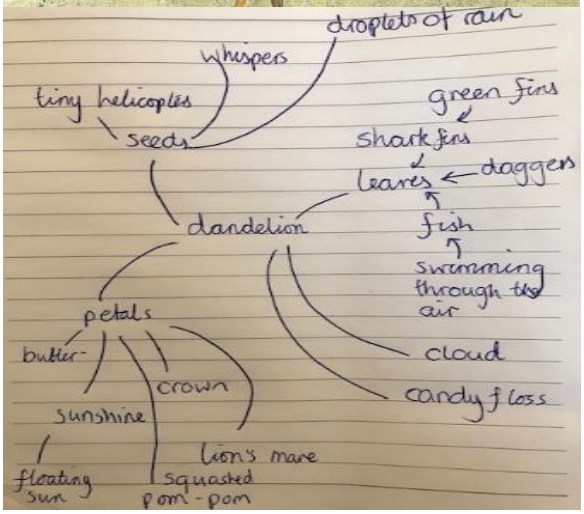
SUBJECT: English

Week Commencing 27th April 2020

Lesson 1: To create interesting metaphors



This week we are focusing on the poem Dandelion by Robert Macfarlane.

Poets are great at comparing things, they sometimes use similes (the dandelion is like a golden sun) but they are very good at using metaphors. (The golden sun sprouted from the ground). They say the thing *is* something else.

Activity 1

What is the difference between these two descriptions?

1. *The dandelion seeds are like tiny helicopters spinning through the sky.*
2. *Tiny helicopters spin through the sky.*

Activity 2

Look at the illustration of a dandelion plant opposite.

There are leaves, roots, flowers, petals, seeds. Now turn on your poetry brain, what could you compare them to? Make a mind map or a list of all your ideas in your exercise book (see my example opposite).

Activity 3

Now you have many comparisons, use those ideas to create interesting metaphors. Experiment with different ideas. Read them back, tick your most effective one and think about why you like that one the best.

You could tweet this or email your teacher via PurpleMash.

For example:

The fluffy cloud is ready to disperse its tiny seeds into the air.

The droplets of rain explode from the fluffy plant.

Tiny helicopters spin through the air.

The green fins swim up the stems to protect their golden queen.

The soft sun floats on a green sea of leaves.

SPaG: **Fix the spelling and punctuation mistake, there is one of each in each sentence.**

The fluffy clowd is ready to disperse it's tiny seeds into the air.

The green fins swim up the stems to protect there golden queen

the soft sun flowts on a green sea of leaves.

Lesson 2: to gather and record ideas

In order to be able to write a good poem, you need to know lots about the thing you're writing about. We want to write a poem about dandelions so today you are going to create a fact page about dandelions.

You could present this as a page of a sketchbook, in the style of Anna Atkins with illustrations and descriptions (see the example opposite) or you could create a fact page on PurpleMash (you have been set this as a 2Do). When you are writing down your facts make sure you use full sentences and correct punctuation.

Questions to consider

Where does the plant grow?

Can you see the plant in your local area?

Can you eat the plant?

Does the plant have any other names?

What is the life cycle of the plant?

Useful Websites

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zhrb4wx

https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=1012

https://www.softschools.com/facts/plants/dandelion_facts/597/

http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-dandelions/

When you have completed your fact page, give it to someone else to read and ask them what they have learnt about dandelions. If they have learnt some facts then your fact file is fit for purpose.

Don't forget to take photographs of your brilliant work and share it with your teachers using your PurpleMash account!

SPaG: Fix the spelling and punctuation mistake, there is one of each in each sentence.

Usually the plant uses the wind to transport the seads.

each seed has it's own parachute, which means even a slight wind blows the seed high into the sky.

The dandelions seeds are unique because they have a special way of travelling threw the sky.

Lesson 3: To write an acrostic poem

d	a	n	d	e	l	i	o	n

All the poems included in Robert Macfarlane's spell book are acrostic poems. That means each line begins with a letter from a word.

Now we have lots of knowledge about the plant, dandelion, you are going to create an acrostic poem about it.

Activity 1

Create a table in your exercise book like the one opposite. You will need 9 columns, one for each letter of the word dandelion. Set yourself a timer of 5 minutes and see how many words you can think of beginning with each letter.

Activity 2

Look at the words you have generated and see if you can use a thesaurus to upgrade any of them for more interesting synonyms (words that have the same meaning).

Activity 3

Now you have knowledge and words you are ready to write your own poem. Mrs Ceesay has done one too. Can you spot any metaphors she has used? What about alliteration? You can magpie some ideas from hers or create your own.

On Purple Mash you have been set a 2Do to complete your own acrostic poem on the word dandelion. Once you have completed it, make sure you save it and then your teachers will be able to give you feedback - they might even share it on the academy's twitter page.

SPaG: **Fix the spelling and punctuation mistake, there is one of each in each sentence.**

A flurry of wind whisked the helicopter babys away

The field is so full of dandelions the new plants have nowere to grow.

The dandelions seeds are delicateally clever.

Lesson 4: To edit and improve a poem

Activity 1

This poem doesn't have much alliteration, description or metaphors. Use the hints below to improve this poem.

1. Dandelions are ^ dancers
2. Acrobats moving in the wind
3. Never not moving
4. Drifting in the wind
5. Escaping from their home
6. Little seeds fly
7. In the sky
8. Over the fields
9. Near to the roads

1. Add an adjective beginning with d to include some alliteration.
2. Swap the verb for a more powerful verb choice.
3. Swap the verb for a more powerful verb choice.
4. Think of a metaphor for wind.
5. What does the seeds home look like? Create an interesting description.
6. Think of a metaphor for the flying seeds.
7. Add more description.
8. Add an adjective beginning with f to describe the fields.
9. Add an adjective beginning with r to describe the roads.

Activity 2

Now read your new and improved poem aloud. Does it sound better than the original one? Identify one line that you think is the most effective and explain why.

SPaG: Complete the sentence using the possessive apostrophe correctly.

The _____ seeds dispersed into the open air.

The _____ tiny helicopters twisted in the breeze.

Glistening in the sunshine, the _____ dandelions grew.

Lesson 5: To write and publish a poem

Activity 1: Read and edit

Read the poem you wrote on Wednesday and the poem you improved on Thursday. Do you want to make any changes to your poem? You could magpie ideas, change the wording or upgrade word choices.

Activity 2: Publish

Once you are happy with your poem you need to decide how you want to publish it. You could record it as an audio file on a mobile phone or tablet or you could video it as a vlog. Alternatively, you could write it in your best handwriting and illustrate it with a detailed drawing. Your teachers are still looking out to see who is ready for a pen license.

SPaG: How has the apostrophe been used in this sentence?

The fields' dandelions took over the grass, splashing it with tiny rays of sunshine.

A. Contracted form
B. Plural possession
C. Possession