

Teaching Live | The Dragon's Den | Week 6

Monday 15th November 2021

What the children need: a writing journal, writing equipment and tablet per pupil or in pairs/threes and a screen at the front of the class that everyone can see.

Oral Game –modeled by the team and then played in pairs orally – inventing **alliterative animals sentences**.

Guest slot – This week we chat with the Paul Cookson, a poet and performer who spends a lot of his time working with schools running writing workshops and performing. Paul will be talking about and reading a few poems. [It helps if the children have the three poems below available to look at while Paul is reading and to refer to when responding.](#)

Paul lives in Retford with his wife, two children, a dog and several ukuleles. He has worked as poet since 1989 and since then has visited thousands of schools and performed to hundreds of thousands of pupils and staff. Paul is also/ has been:



- the official Poet In Residence for the National Football Museum;
- Poetry Ambassador for United Learning;
- Poet Laureate for Slade;
- Poet for Everton Collection at Liverpool Library;

- poet in residence for the magazine Literacy Time Plus and wrote specific poems and teachers' resources.

As part of the National Year of Reading Paul was nominated a National Reading Hero and received his award at 10 Downing Street. His work has taken him all over the world – including visits to Argentina, Uganda, Malaysia, Singapore, Beijing, Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland.

His work has appeared on Match of The Day, Radio 5 Live, Radio 2, The World Service, CBBC, Sky Sports, Talksport Radio, The Everton match day programme. He has written poems celebrating a variety of footballers – including Brian Labone, Dixie Dean, Howard Kendall, Neville Southall, Alex Young, Joe Royle and Graeme Sharp and performed them at official Everton events. His poem about Brian Labone was read by Ian Callaghan at his funeral and has appeared in the Everton Match day programme. Bill Kenwright read his poem about Dave Hickson at the memorial service Former Everton, Leeds and Nottingham Forest player Duncan McKenzie used a poem by Paul in his autobiography – The Last Fancy Dan. He co-ordinated a poetry exhibition for the National Football Museum. As part of this he wrote a set of commemorative poems for the England team of 1966. He has since met six of the team and they now have the poems written about and for them.



His poem “Let no-one steal your dreams” has been adopted by numerous schools as their mission statement, school motto etc.

and become a Year six leaver's poem. He was once a substitute for John Cooper Clarke at the Sheffield Off The Shelf Festival and also stood in for Andrew Motion at the Warwick University Arts Centre with European Chamber Orchestra.

His performances are always memorable, lively and extremely funny. Audience participation is non negotiable! WARNING : may contain ukuleles.

He has a vast experience of leading workshops with all age groups and abilities and firmly believes that everyone can write poems. With over sixty titles to his name, Paul has sold well over three quarters of a million books and his poems appear in over two hundred other books. Best known collections include The Poetry Store, Pants on Fire, The Truth About Teachers, I'd Rather Be A Footballer, Give Us A Goal , Spill The Beans,

The Truth About Parents, The World At Our Feet and It's Behind You! As well as a tenth anniversary edition of perennial best seller – The Works (now sold over 200,000 copies).



Website <http://paulcooksonpoet.co.uk>

Bluenoses <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCKPjkvqDS0>

WHEN MY LITTLE SISTER SINGS

When my little sister sings
I'd like to think of lovely things
Morning birdsong, angel wings
A nightingale, a bell that rings
Music fit for queens and kings
When my little sister sings

But these are not the sounds she brings
More like boingy rusty springs
The noises caused by nettle stings
Or cats that scratch on violins
Then scrape their claws on broken strings
Creaking chains on squeaking swings

I'd rather hear *anything*
Than listen to my sister sing

WHEN MY BROTHER PLAYS HIS TRUMPET

We don't like but have to lump it
When my brother plays his trumpet

He huffs and puffs and hoots and honks
Squeaks and parps and toots and squonks

The baby cries, the puppy howls
The budgie shrieks, the kitten yowls

Dad puts socks into his ears
Mummy's eyes are full of tears

We all wish he'd go and dump it
When my brother plays his trumpet

Paul Cookson

Full of Surprises

This poem is full of surprises
Each line holds something new
This poem is full of surprises
Especially for you...

It's full of tigers roaring
It's full of loud guitars
It's full of comets soaring
It's full of shooting stars

It's full of pirates fighting
It's full of winning goals
It's full of alien sightings
It's full of rock and roll

It's full of rainbows beaming
It's full of eagles flying
It's full of dreamers dreaming
It's full of teardrops drying

It's full of magic spells
It's full of wizards' pointy hats
It's full of fairy elves
It's full of witches and black cats

It's full of dragons breathing fire
It's full of dinosaurs
It's full of mountains reaching higher
It's full of warm applause

It's full of everything you need
It's full of more besides
It's full of food, the world to feed

It's full of fairground rides

It's full of love and happiness

It's full of dreams come true

It's full of things that are the best

Especially for you

It's jammed and crammed and packed and stacked

With things both old and new

This poem is full of surprises

Especially for you.

Paul Cookson

CRAZY AT THE ZOO

There's a penguin eating pizza
A lion in the loo
A bear that wears pink underwear
It's crazy at the zoo

A rock and rolling rhino
A kung fu kangaroo
A hip hop hippopotamus
It's crazy at the zoo

A ballet dancing buffalo
In a tiny tutu too
An elephant in spotty pants
It's crazy at the zoo

The zebra's stripes are painted
Orange, red and blue
The tiger's pink and purple
It's crazy at the zoo

A gecko with an echo
Is g-nagging the gnu
A giggling gorilla
It's crazy at the zoo

A parrot that is potty
Sings *Cock a doodle doo*
A crocodile with a toothless smile
It's crazy at the zoo

Monkeys wearing lipstick
Bonkers but it's true
Snakes in socks are tied in knots
It's crazy at the zoo

An orang utan that tangoes
With a cockatoo
A sloth that coughs and races off
It's crazy at the zoo

All the clever keepers
Know just what to do
They're selling lots of tickets
Lots and lots of tickets
Selling lots more tickets
Because ...
It's crazy – at – the zoo !

Paul Cookson

Padlet – Children write a response to the poems. They can ask Paul questions and comment:

- **questions** – for the author
- **likes** – word choices, images, ideas
- **puzzles** – things that seem a mystery
- **connections** – links with other pieces of writing
- **memories** – has anything ever happened like this
- **feelings** – what it made you feel
- **patterns** – how does the pattern help the effect
- **techniques** – sound effects or word play or imagery
- **most memorable** – which part really worked and why

Why / How/ When/ Where/ What...?

I like the part where...

I'm not sure...

I'm puzzled about....

This made me think of...

This reminded me of

The part where it says.... made me feel.... because...

The pattern makes the reader....

The best technique used...

The most memorable part is....

Jotcast activity – Writing from rhyming lines based on ‘Crazy at the zoo’. Paul will talk through how to approach this. We will look at rhythm, repetition and possible rhymes

Instead of Crazy at the Zoo we will look at

Crazy In Our School

Step 1

Make a list of crazy things that could happen in the school.

These could be :

- when the teacher isn't there
- silly things that have happened
- silly things that might happen
- cartoon capers
- games you might play
- inventions
- tricks

It's very open ended

Step 2

We will put them together in lines of three with our repeated line – therefore creating a four-line verse

Step 3

Editing through performance –

Rhythm / beat – how does it sound and how can we make it better?

Step 4

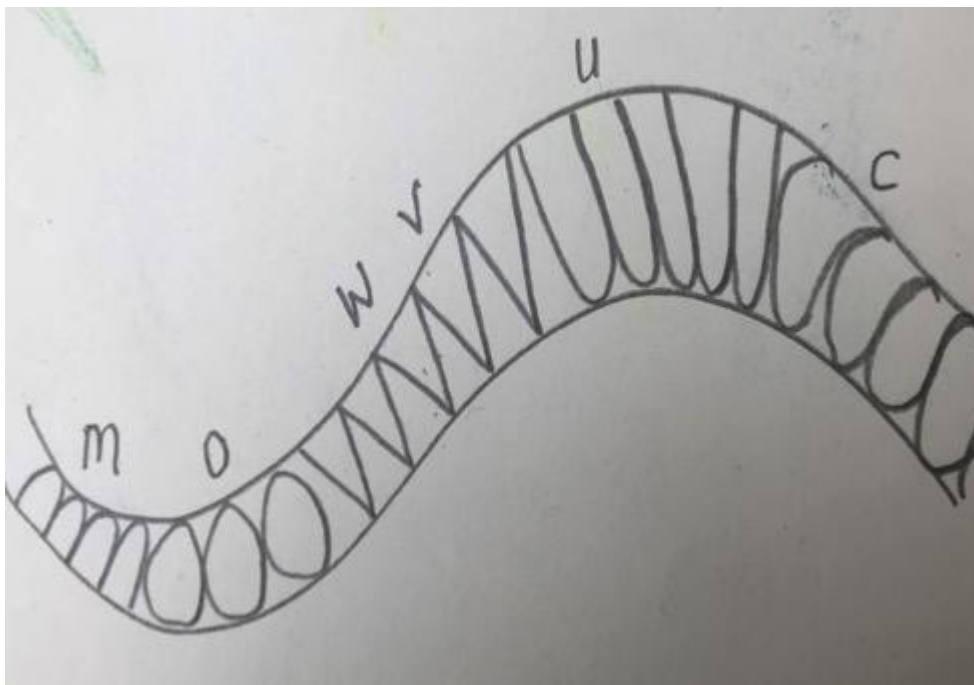
Possible rhymes / choruses

Gallery Challenge - create a colourful pattern using repeated letter shapes – bit like rhyming with colour and pattern!

a. Draw a road with two lines fairly close.



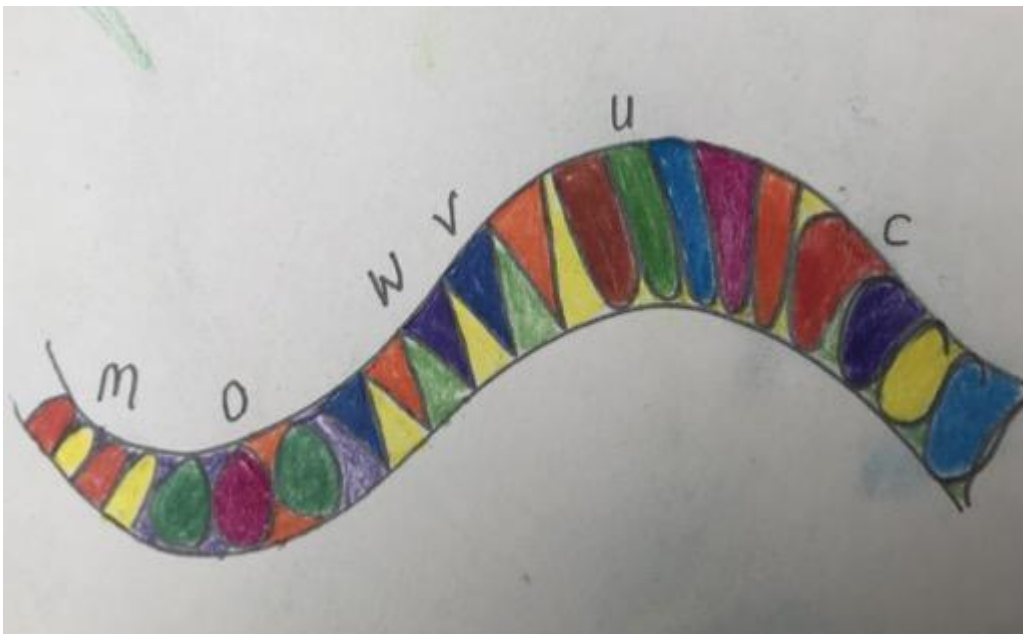
b. Draw some letter shapes on carefully



c. Now colour in the shapes to create a patten.



d. Then fill in any spaces between the shapes.



Blogging Activity – The big challenge – continue to write verses based on ‘Crazy at the Zoo’ but about something else, e.g. school. Or, try to write verses to add to, ‘Full of Surprises’ using the following rhyming pattern:

*It's full of tigers **roaring***
*It's full of loud **guitars***
*It's full of comets **soaring***
*It's full of shooting **stars***

Audio Challenge – record and perform your poem.

These notes: © Pie Corbett 2021 – poems © Paul Cookson 2021.