



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Poetry on the Move

*An activity of "London celebrates 40 years of trains carrying poems".*

Read "London celebrates 40 years of trains carrying poems (page 13, *What's Up* April 2026). This article is about how London Underground trains carry poems so that commuters can enjoy poetry during their daily journeys.

1. With a partner, discuss:

- a) Do you think public spaces should only be practical, or should they also contain art and other beautiful things? Why?
- b) Why might a poem feel special in a place filled with noise, crowds, and advertisements?
- c) The article suggests that poems can give people comfort and hope. Why do people need these in their daily life, not just in books or classrooms?

2. A list poem is a poem that is made up of a series of images, details, sounds, actions, and/or feelings. It often:

- lists things the poet notices
- uses short lines
- creates a mood or picture in the reader's head
- does not need to rhyme
- helps readers to see ordinary things in a fresh way

A list poem is not just a random list. The details should connect to a mood, place or idea. Read the examples below:

Example 1	Example 2
<p><b>Morning Train</b>  wet umbrellas  heavy eyelids  a boy hugs his file  sister scrolls in silence  earbuds fill her head with pop tunes  the doors nearly close  on a rushing passenger  lights reflecting off dark windows flicker  across sleepy faces</p>	<p><b>Going Home</b>  warm air rises, at the bus stop  plastic bags brush against knees as  Aunty squeezes through  Char Kway Teow smoke drifts from the  nearby food centre — tummy growls  shoulders ache, heavy school bag  a pink and orange sunset above the  blocks  Home is waiting</p>

- a) Discuss with your partner what senses are used in the poems and what feelings they create. Where would be good public spaces to place these poems? Why?

3. Write your own list poem to be placed in one of the commonly-used spaces in your school. E.g. a corridor, a space near the school piano, or water cooler, etc.

Chosen space at school: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you see in your chosen space? Jot down your points.


What can you hear?


What can you feel?


What would you like the overall mood of your poem to be? E.g. peaceful, lonely, hopeful, rushed, tired, warm, thoughtful, curious, joyful, etc.

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Imagine that your poem will be placed at your chosen location to be read in under 20 seconds. Your poem should:

- have a title
- contain 7 to 10 lines
- focus on one moment or mood
- use clear and specific details
- help readers picture or feel something.

Design a poster with your poem on it, so that it can be placed in the location in your school.

- Readers should be able to notice it quickly, read it easily, and understand the mood at a quick glance.
- Do not overcrowd the poster.
- Try to make the title stand out.
- Use simple visual details (but not too many).
- Match the colour and design to the poem's feel (e.g. you can use softer, curved lines for a peaceful poem and sharper, harder lines for a rushed/ busy poem) or tiny rain drops for a rainy-day poem and so on. Have fun!

