



The  
**EVERTON  
COLLECTION**  
Schools & Learning

**Performance Poetry**  
Key Stage 2



The City of Liverpool



## Overview

This resource has been written by football poet, Paul Cookson to support pupils studying poetry at Key Stage 2. It uses four poems written by Paul Cookson to introduce students to performance poetry. The class then follows a step by step guide to create and perform their own football poem.

## National Curriculum links

**Literacy Strategy** –Year 3 – Poetry Unit 1: Poems to perform, Year 5 – Poetry Unit 3: Choral and performance

**English** – Speaking, listening, group discussion and interaction, Knowledge, skills & understanding, En2 – 4f, 4i,

## Learning Objectives

- To read poems and listen to them being performed by the teacher and class mates.
- Explore different ways of performing poems using rhythm, beat, tone of voice etc.
- To write a simple performance poem
- To perform a poem as a class

## Activity 1 - Finding a voice for your poems

Every poem has a voice. When you read or perform a poem you bring them to life. It is worth trying different ways of performing a poem until you find the best voice for that poem. There is no 'right' voice. It's what works best for you and what works best for you may not work for everyone.

Here are four poems for you to practice with. As a class discuss how best to perform them. Think about:

Rhythm

Beat

Expression

Tone of voice

Loudness or quietness of your voice

The speed that you say the words

The mood of the poem

The characters in the poem

Repetition – why not find a line that you like and repeat it several times

## Things to remember...

- You have to read the poems out loud
- Every word is important. Poets take time over their words when they are writing, so it is important to make sure that every word is performed.
- Read each poem six or seven times. That way, once you are familiar with the lines and layout of the poem, you can concentrate on the feel of the words and how best to perform, them rather than concentrating on getting the words right.

## Activity 2 – Reading poems aloud

### Poem

#### **The Footballer's Prayer, by Paul Cookson**

Say one line at a time and then get the class to repeat the lines after you in a prayer like manner, exaggerating the puns and wordplay

Our team  
Which art eleven  
Hallowed be thy game  
Our match be won  
Their score be none  
On turf as we score at least seven  
Give us today no daily red ... card  
And forgive us our lost passes  
As we forgive those  
Who lose passes against us  
Lead us not into retaliation  
And deliver us from penalties  
For three is the kick off  
The power and scorer  
For ever and ever  
Full time

## Poem

### Coolscorin'matchwinnin'celebratin'striker

**By Paul Cookson**

Try getting your class to read this poem really fast!

He's a shirt removin' crowd salutin'  
handstandin' happy landin'  
rockin' rollin' divin' slidin'  
posin' poutin' loud shoutin'  
pistol packin' smoke blowin'  
flag wavin' kiss throwin'  
hipswingin' armwavin'  
breakdancin' cool ravin'  
shoulder shruggin' team huggin'  
hot shootin' rootin' tootin'  
somersaultin' fence vaultin'  
last minute goal grinnin'  
shimmy shootin' shin spinnin'  
celebratin' goalscorin' STRIKER!



## Poem

### The Goalie with Expanding Hands, by Paul Cookson

Exaggerate the rhythm and get everyone to join in with the word “HANDS” and raise their hands in goalie style fashion

Any crosses, any shots  
I will simply stop the lot  
I am always in demand  
The goalie with expanding hands

Volleys, blasters, scissor kicks  
I am safe between the sticks  
All attacks I will withstand  
The goalie with expanding hands

Free kicks or a penalty  
No-one ever scores past me  
Strong and bold and safe I'll stand  
The goalie with expanding hands

Let their strikers be immense  
I'm the last line of defence  
Alert, on duty, all posts manned  
The goalie with expanding hands

Palms as long as arms expand  
Thumbs and fingers ready fanned  
You may as well shoot in the stand  
Not a chance! Understand?  
Number one in all the land  
Superhuman, super-spanned  
In control and in command  
I'm the man, I'm the man  
The one and only goalie ... with my expanding hands

## Poem

### No-one Passes Me, by Paul Cookson

Again, get the rhythm and have the whole class sound really tough and hold out their hands in front of them when they say, “NO-ONE PASSES ME!”

I’m a blaster not a tapper  
A ninety minute scrapper  
A chopper and a hacker – cos ...  
No-one passes me!

I’ve got the brawn and muscle  
For the tackle and the tussle  
I’ll hassle and I’ll hussle – cos ...  
No-one passes me!

Harum scarum do or dare ’em  
I will take the knocks and bare ’em  
Show me strikers and I’ll scare ’em – cos ...  
No-one passes me!

I’m a winner not a loser  
A rough ’em tough ’em bruiser  
A goal scorer’s confuser – cos...  
No-one passes me!

Summer sun or winter mire  
Lion hearted do or die-er  
In my belly burns a fire – cos ...  
No-one passes me!

I’m a last ditch tackle fighter  
A knee and ankle biter  
Nobody marks you tighter – cos ...  
No-one passes me!

## Activity 3 – Writing a performance poem

Let's try and write a simple performance poem and find a voice for it.

### STEP 1

Start with the line – NO WAY REFEREE!

Say it out loud as a crowd might say it

### STEP 2

Spend a few minutes making a list of the types of things that football referees typically get wrong, or the decisions they should not have made, such as penalties and yellow cards. Write these things down starting with the words

Should have been...

Should have been a penalty

Should have been a yellow card

You can also write it down as it is said. For example,

'Shuddabinnapenalty'

'Shuddabinnayellacard'

### STEP 3

Now add 'No way referee' in between each line...

NO WAY REFEREE – SHUDDABINNAPENALTEE  
NO WAY REFEREE – SHUDDABINNAYELLACARD  
NO WAY REFEREE – SHUDDABINNAFREEKICK  
NO WAY REFEREE – SHUDDABINAGOAL

Four lines work well as a verse, try writing two or three verses.

### STEP 4

Say the verses out loud. Think about rhythm and volume, for example perform the poem as you are a group of annoyed football fans.

### STEP 5

If you like you can add a chorus. For instance,

SPECSAVERS! SPECSAVERS!  
SHUDDAGONE TO SPECSAVERS!





## **STEP 6**

Put everything you have written together so that you have

Verse / chorus / verse / chorus

Exaggerate the rhythms and have fun with it! You can even mark the start and end of the poem with the sound of a referees whistle.

## Contact us

If you have any comments about our resources please contact the Learning Officer

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## More about Paul Cookson....



Paul Cookson has worked as a poet for over twenty years. He has visited thousands of schools to perform his work and lead workshops.

He has written and edited over forty collections of poetry and sold three quarters of a million books for Macmillan, Scholastic, Lion Hudson, Hodder and Red Fox.

Since 2004 he has been the Poet in Residence at the National Football Museum.

Amongst other things, he is the Poet Laureate for Slade, owns several ukuleles and plays lots of five a side football and tennis – but not all at the same time.

His work has appeared on Radio Two, Radio Five, Talksport Radio, The World Service and CBBC. Recently his poems have appeared in the Everton match day programme, several Everton based events and also Duncan McKenzie's forthcoming autobiography.

## Current titles include:

Give Us A Goal  
I'd Rather Be A Footballer  
Pants on Fire

The Truth About Teachers, (with D. Harmer, B. Moses & R. Stevens)  
The Truth About Parents, (with D. Harmer, B. Moses & R. Stevens)  
The Works 1, 3 and 5 (Editor)  
How to Embarrass Teachers (Editor)

All Macmillan Press

Visit Paul Cookson's website

[www.paulcooksonpoet.co.uk](http://www.paulcooksonpoet.co.uk)

