



The
**EVERTON
COLLECTION**
Schools & Learning

Poetry - Playing with Language
Key Stage 1 & Lower 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 1 and lower Key Stage 2. The resource uses poems written by Paul Cookson to help pupils explore language play in the form of kennings. Working as a class, pupils follow a step by step guide to write and perform a kenning poem.

National Curriculum Links

Literacy Strategy: Year 1: Poetry Unit 2 – Pattern and Rhyme, Year 2: Poetry Unit 3 – Silly Stuff, Year 3: Poetry Unit 1 – Poems to Perform, Year 3: Poetry Unit 3 – Language Play, Year 4: Poetry Unit 2 – Exploring form

English: Speaking, listening, group discussion and interaction, Knowledge, skills & understanding, KS1: En2 – 3d, 3e, KS2:En2 – 4f, 4i.

Learning Objectives

- To read poems and listen to them being performed by the teacher and class mates.
- To develop word reading and writing skills and extend vocabulary
- To explore humorous poems and ways of using language in playful ways
- To write a simple poem
- To perform a poem as a class

Introduction - What is a Kenning?

Kennings are thought to originate from the Anglo Saxons and Vikings who gave names to their swords. Not names like “Fred” or “Susan” of course, but exotic and brave names that helped to describe what their sword did. They gave them names like, “Death Bringer”, “Skull Smasher”, “Blood Gusher”, and “Heart Piercer”.

So, it is a way of describing something without actually using the word. You could have

Tail wager
Loud barker
Stick fetcher

This of course would be a dog. Or,

Furniture scratcher
Mouse chaser
Loud purrer

This would be a cat. We could do the same with football players.

Activity 1

Rather than try and write a kenning about football generally it is better to think about a football player in a particular position, for example, a goal keeper. Get your class to think about what a goal keeper has to do. For example, catch a ball. By turning this idea into a kenning you get, "Ball catcher". Here are some more examples for you to discuss with your class.

Shot stopper

Ball saver

Cross snatcher

Loud shouter

To make these activities more interesting and to help give your pupils ideas, you can download images of football players on the Everton Collection website and display them on your interactive whiteboard.





Activity 2

Step 1

Looking through the list we might find that we have some repetition, i.e. ball catcher and ball saver.

Try and think of different words to describe the item that is being repeated. For example,

“Ball catcher”

Could become,

“Penalty saver”

Step 2

You might also find that some of the words that you are using rhyme. Try and encourage your pupils to pick out these words. For example,

“Ball catcher”

“Shot snatcher”

Step 3

Arrange the kennings that you and your class have thought of into groups of four. Try and make the second and fourth lines rhyme. For example,

Shot stopper
Ball catcher
Penalty saver
Cross snatcher

Step 4

Take another look at the ideas your class have come up with. Are there any more words that could rhyme or half-rhyme? For instance,

Stopper/ blocker/ shocker

Slider/ diver

Kicker/ flicker

To create more verses organise the rest of the class's ideas into lines of four, with the second and fourth lines rhyming if possible. See how many verses you can get.



Activity 3

Ask your class to perform the whole goal keeper poem. Try and perform it so that the rhythm is pronounced and exaggerated.

Activity 4

Divide your class in groups and give each group a different type of football player or person to write about. Ask each group to come up with a list of kennings then, choose one to develop further as a class using the steps above. Your class could write about a

Defender	match saver, pitch glider, ball crusher, mud slinger...
Attacker	goal scorer, match winner, ball shooter....
Manager	instruction shouter, tracksuit wearer, gum chewer, loud shouter...
Referee	time keeper, watch watcher, red card shower...
Football fan	pie eater, scarf waver, song singer....

If you need to give your class a bit of inspiration, read this poem written by Paul Cookson

Mr Kenning – the Referee

Match starter
Watch watcher
Time Keeper
Play stopper

Decision maker
Foul ignorer
Blind eye-er
Game changer

Headline causer
Finger pointer
Penalty giver
Card waver

Crowd incensor
Hassle taker
Abuse listener
No mate-er

Hot seater
Black wearer
Gun sticker
Whistle blower

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HAVE FUN!



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

