

Explore the timeline

Objectives

- To help students explore the online PBH timeline anthology
- To help students find a poem they enjoy

Introduction

These quick start activities are mostly about exploring some of the poems in the Poetry By Heart timeline anthology. The activities offer a variety of starting points that could be used in class, in a poetry club or reading group, or independently. The section concludes with a shared learn-it-together activity to help establish the idea that learning a poem starts with learning a single line – and it can be fun!

3 ways to explore the timeline anthology

1. Listen to some poems Go to the Poetry By Heart website and click on “A selection from the 2015 finals”. Watch at least one of the videos of last year’s finalists. Then open the Anthology timeline from the home page. Click on “filter timeline” in the top grey bar. On the drop-down menu, click “Audio Link” or “Video Link” and the green “go” button. This will give you all the poems with audio recordings made by poets or student recitation videos.

2. Read some poems The Anthology timeline opens in one of ten places randomly - “refresh” the page or use the scroll bar to time-travel somewhere else. Pick a poet and click to view the poem. There’s a print button there or share via Facebook or Twitter. Then, click on the “filter timeline” button in the top grey bar and pick a topic you fancy. Hit the green “go” button and you’ll see all the poems tagged with that topic. See what you can find – the connection is not always obvious!

3. Random poem On the homepage click on the yellow random poem square and see which poem you get. Read the title and first few lines, look at the poet portrait and decide whether to “twist” ie hit the lucky dip button for another choice or “stick” and read/listen to the poem. You can only “twist” twice; the third poem has to be read. Then see what you can say about the poem; everyone has to add something new, or modify or exemplify a comment made by someone else. How far can you get with the poem in this way? Check out the poem and poet notes at the foot of the poem if you want to. Be warned, they are never ‘the answer’.