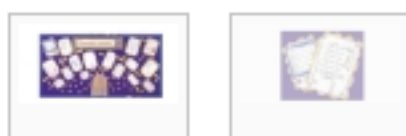


Crafty Ideas: **Dreamer Poems**

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A display of dreamer poems



There is a long tradition of poems inspired by, or taking the form of dreams, from Chaucer's Dream Poems to Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*. This activity takes Brian Moses' poem, *The Dreamer*, as the starting point for children's own dream poems.

**You will need:**

- 'The Dreamer' by Brian Moses
- Art inspired by dreams
- Blue and yellow sugar paper
- Labels for vocabulary
- Paint or crayons

**Use**

The dreamer poems activity can be used as part of a wider investigation of poetry, as part of themed work on citizenship and the environment, or as a stand-alone piece of work.

**Make**

➔ Read *The Dreamer* as a class.

I dreamt I was an ocean  
and no one polluted me.

I dreamt I was a whale  
and no hunters chased after me.

I dreamt I was the air  
and nothing blackened me.

I dreamt I was a stream  
and nobody poisoned me.

I dreamt I was an elephant  
and nobody stole my ivory.

I dreamt I was a rainforest  
and no one cut down my trees.

I dreamt I painted a smile  
on the face of the Earth  
for all to see.

➔ Discuss the themes of the poem. Ask the children how the poet uses the idea of the dream to have an effect on the reader.

➔ Ask children to look up dream in a thesaurus and make labels of words that are synonyms.

➔ Ask children to write and illustrate their own dreamer poems. They can be serious, like Brian's or more absurd.

**Display**

Create a backdrop for the display from the dark blue sugar paper. Add a central figure or figures to the display – the back of the dreamers' heads. Mount each poem on a bubble of yellow paper. Arrange the poems around the dreamers' heads and add bubbles to show the direction of their thoughts.

You could extend the display by adding the work of some artists who have been inspired by dreams, such as Chagall. You could also use some dream catchers in the display.

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