

Writing poems for two voices

Teachers' notes

- Read aloud 'The Password', below. Ask the children to try writing a poem for two or more voices. They could think of a situation involving a conflict of some kind, as in 'The Password'.
- Tell the children that the poem doesn't have to rhyme but it should have a rhythm so that it sounds good when you read it aloud. The children could write a piece about wanting to do something that a friend doesn't want to do.
- Maybe the voices might echo each other, as in 'Barry and his Headteacher'.
- Alternatively, the children could try writing a telephone conversation, as in 'Telephone call'.
- Remind the children that when these poems are performed, their audience will really want to hear the differences between the voices. Think about how these can be accentuated.

The Password

What's the password?
I don't know.
You can't come in.
Who says so?

I say so.
You and whose army?
Tell me the password.
You must be barmy!

Just tell it me now.
What if I don't?
I'll have to fight you.
Oh no you won't.

What's the password?
I've forgotten.
Tell me the password.
You're just being rotten.

Tell me the password,
Tell it to me.
Tell you the password?
Oh what can it be...?

Barry and his Headteacher

(A poem for two voices)

Barry went home to his Mum and said...
(Barry's Head telephoned his wife and said...)
I can't do anything right at school,
(I can't stand another day at this school.)
The teacher told me off and when I asked why,
(This lad called Barry is driving us wild.)
He sent me to the Head who sat me down,
(I had him in my office all afternoon.)
and made me do nothing till the others went home.
(It was such a relief when I could let him go.)

Telephone call

Hi, it's me, I'm on my mobile phone,
thought I'd give you a call to say I'm coming back home.

Well it's about time too, where have you been?
You could have called me earlier, you're so mean.

all poems by Brian Moses

