

## **Poetry Bingo**

Poetry can feel intimidating sometimes.

Playing Poetry Bingo encourages people to suggest their favourite poems, as well as creating something new from them.

- Write down a well-known poem
- Cut out each line
- Put each line in a hat or bag
- Ask someone to randomly pick a line and read it out
- Now make a poem or verse starting with this line of poetry

It can be scary looking at a blank page and trying to write a poem.

This exercise gives people a good starting point to work from.







#### **Birds**

Birds can be a great theme for a creative session. Begin by asking your residents a question such as 'What's your favourite bird?'

Next, talk to your residents about their memories of birds, the sounds different birds make, and about the different sayings that feature birds:

'Like a duck to water'

'Wise as an owl'

'What's good for the goose is good for the gander'

Any words, memories or stories can be displayed on paper, written into a short poem or made into a bird-shaped mobile.





#### A story inspired by art

A great way to get people thinking about stories or poetry is to start with an image.

Find an interesting painting, photograph or an image from a film or TV show.

Discuss the image with residents then start asking some creative questions:

- Who are the people in the image?
- What do they do for work?
- What are they doing now?
- Where are they going?

Encourage the residents to create a short, simple story about the characters and scenario they can see in the image.

Sometimes it is easier creating a story from an image, rather than from memory.







## A box of prompts

Putting together a box of prompts is an easy way to help residents start to think more creatively. You could include:

- Photographs
- Newspaper articles
- Food packaging
- Natural objects (feathers, moss, etc)
- Old keys
- Pehbles and shells
- Brightly coloured sweet wrappers

Ask residents to pick something out of the box and encourage them to talk about the object. They could write a poem about it, write down their memories of it, or create a story about what they've found.

The possibilities are endless!







#### Acrostic poems

Making an acrostic poem is fun and easy.

Choose a word to start with.

It could be anything: a season, such as 'Autumn', a day of the week, or a resident's name.

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Encourage residents to write each line of the poem, starting with those letters. Each line should say something about the look, smells, feeling, tastes and memories of Autumn. Now try with each season!

