

It's So Cliché

(Activity & Project Ideas)

We hope you enjoyed watching 'It's So Cliché!'. The following activities should help your class to further explore the themes and message of the poem.

1. As a class, discuss what the word 'cliché' means.

Have a race to find the definition in the dictionary. Then see whether the class was right. Write the definition of cliché on the board and challenge yourselves to avoid being cliché in your work for the rest of the day.

2. In groups discuss

- What do you think Mark's message is?
- Why do you think this?
- Can you use evidence from the poem to explain your thoughts/ideas?

3. What do you hear throughout your day that's 'so cliché?'

Make a list of day-to-day cliché phrases.

Can you write a story or poem that starts with one of these phrases?

Or a script for a scene that uses as many phrases as possible?

4. What does Mark do in the poem to avoid being cliché? Are these actions sensible? Can you think of five more examples of non-cliché behaviour?

Then:

Write a persuasive paragraph to get people to adopt one of your non-cliché behaviours. Perhaps you could even create a Public Service Broadcast that encourages people to adopt the behaviour for the good of the nation?

5. An experiment - by avoiding clichéd rules, can we explore the new.

- Can you write something that defies clichéd rules of writing?
- Can you relay a message or idea?
- What would a limerick look like if it was cliché?
Or a recipe? Or a text message?



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6. Write the following phrases on the board

- At the end of the day
- Over the moon
- Raining cats and dogs



Get students to think of new phrases that would mean the same thing as any of these, but that would be original. Then have a knockout tournament where the students vote for their favourite alternative, before committing to use them throughout the week as a class within everyday conversation.

7. Can you think of a cliché that you could relay in emojis? Spend a few minute working on it and share it with the class. See if the class can guess what your cliché is from your emojis.



8. Write your own poem called 'It's so original!'

- Are there any ideas from the poem that you can use in yours?
- Are there any ideas you feel you should avoid?
- What challenges does the title give you?

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These activities were developed by Mark Grist in collaboration with Louise Double (Lilac Education).
Sheet design by Paper Rhino.

If you've found these activities useful and would like to get in touch/ share your students' work feel free to email mark@markgrist.com and Mark will get back to you with a message for your class.