

MARK GRIST'S 'YOU NEED A NAPPY'

(Activity & project ideas)

- Students have a 'snowball fight' with the poem. Cut the poem handout into separate strips of paper (one per line). Then hand each student a strip. Students screw their line of poetry into a 'snowball', have a fun snowball fight, but must be prepared to discuss the part of the poem that they retrieve by the end of the 'fight'. This could be a word level comment, a comment based on imagery, tone (humour), etc.
- Can you think of/imagine any other neologisms – based around a theme? Eg. Poonami/tsunami.

Go on to explore more neologisms. Could link with Shakespeare's neologism, such as brutish, thunderstroke, unfriend, hoodwink and twangling.

Advertising everyday items – write a persuasive speech based around an everyday object (focus on persuasive methods: including rhetoric, anecdote, rule of three, facts, stats, superlative, repetition, personal pronouns, imperatives, descriptive vocabulary etc).

or

Advertising useless items – the same as above, only this time with some truly useless items. Could you write a persuasive speech for something people would normally never want?

Explosive tea bags / pants made of stinging nettles / a black light bulb / a tent made of wool / a used handkerchief

- Spoken word: Practice sections of the poem. Perform these sections back to the rest of the class live or in pre-recorded video segments in one huge nappy-advert extravaganza! Emphasis on words and intonation when performing. How will you make your performance engaging? How will you involve your audience?
- Extending – can you think of another use for a nappy? How would you make this sound appealing? Can you write an additional verse for the poem?
- Can you write your own version of this poem? Using the poem handout as a reference, what item could you advertise? Students can use the ideas from the Dragon's Den activity below.

Dragons' Den (Longer activity) Students select an ordinary object from the list below, or choose their own.

a vacuum cleaner



a lampshade



a book



a fork



a ball of wool



hair gel



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Now map ideas of different ways that item could be used. You must then come up with an advertising campaign for your object. Their campaign can include a slogan/poster/radio or TV advert/poem/animation and a persuasive speech for potential investors (Teachers/TAs AKA Dragon's Style). The aim is to persuade them to invest in this object.

- Discussion on poetry and advertising: Write the following down on separate signs and place them at different points around the room

I'd do it for free. / £100 / £500 / £1000+ / I would never do it.

Get the students to stand in the centre of the room. Then read out the following commissions, giving the students time to stand in the spot that reflects what they'd charge for each commission.

'To write a poem for a new blockbuster action film. One that The Rock will recite on screen.'

'To write a poem to be placed outside the local library, to remind people to make use of it.'

'To write a poem for a premiership footballer of your choice, all about their football career. You'll need to read the poem out for them at their birthday party.'

'To write a poem for a friend's Grandma. She's been self-isolating and is feeling a little lonely.'

'To write and perform a poem for a national TV advert (for spot cream).'

'To write a poem for a charity - that warns people about the dangers of climate change.'

'To write a poem/advert for a tobacco company - that encourages people to smoke cigarettes.'

'To write a poem about kindness that will be turned into a statue and placed in your local park.'

'To write and perform a poem/ advert for a fast-food chain (like Mcdonalds or Burger King).'

Give the students time to explain their reasons for their decisions.

- Follow on discussion:

In this video, during the chat with his agent, Mark didn't seem keen on writing a poem for an advert. Did that seem odd? Why do you think that was?

Why might a poet be unsure about their work appearing in adverts?

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These activities were developed by Mark Grist in collaboration with Louise Double & Poppy Ould.

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

