

English isolation pack – week 2 – poetry

*This whole task is to take over the course of the week!*

**Pleasant Sounds**

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;

The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down wood-rides, narrow lanes, and every street causeway;

Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind halloos in the oak-top like thunder;

The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests or flying unseen into the bushes;

The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood, such as crows, puddocks, buzzards;

The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves, and the patter of squirrels on the green moss;

The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts on the hazel branches as they fall from ripeness;

The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the stubbles - how sweet such pictures on dewy mornings, when the dew flashes from its brown feathers.

by John Clare

**Read the poem 'Pleasant Sounds'**

1. Highlight any words you don't know. Use a dictionary to look them up or discuss them with an adult.

2. Find synonyms (words that have similar meanings) for the following and write in the table below:

Startled	Crumpling	Trampling	Patter

Online thesauri are very useful for finding effective synonyms if you have access to an iPad or PC.

3. Answer the questions below:

- List three 'pleasant sounds' from the poem.
- Name three things that make a sound in the poem.
- What time of year is the poem set? How do you know?

- Which are your favourite descriptions from the poem? Why do you like them?

4. Think about the sounds that you enjoy outdoors in the spring and summer – collect some of your own ideas and ask other people in your house for their ideas too.

5. Write down some verbs to describe the sounds you like that you think are pleasant or comforting linked to spring.

Use a thesaurus to extend your vocabulary.

For example:

- waves: rhythmic rolling and retreating

6. Develop some descriptive phrases. Use a thesaurus to extend your vocabulary and consider figurative language you might use (similes, metaphors, personification).

For example:

- frothing waves of peace on the shore
- breeze gently sighs

7. Write your own version of the poem choosing sounds of spring or summer using the original poem as a model.

For example: The rhythmic rolling and retreating frothing waves of peace on the shore,  
Delicate crunching of sand beneath my feet while the breeze gently sighs, ...

8. Practise reading aloud your poem or the original. Decide which words need volume and emphasis. Perform to a family member and/or record to send into school so that your teacher can listen. You may wish to publish (handwrite, illustrate and decorate) your final poem. Don't forget to edit and improve!