

Exploring Cultural Identity through Poetry

How many of you speak another language?

Why poetry?

Sharing poetry in other languages / from other cultures:

- empowers students and validates their experience
- encourages students to explore their own backgrounds and the influences that have shaped them

Why poetry?

Hearing poetry in other languages / from other cultures:

- immerses students in the aural/oral tradition - and shows them that you don't have to understand something to enjoy it
- introduces students (and teachers!) to authors and poetic traditions that they don't know anything about
- can help to target stereotypes and misconceptions students may hold about other cultures
- serves as an antidote to the Anglo-centrism of current educational policy

Cultural Identity



The project

A range of activities to explore cultural identity and poetry as aural/oral tradition:

- listening to readings of poetry in Latin and ancient Greek
- listening to poems brought in by members of the class - in other languages, dialects, representing different places
- group work to create a presentation on a poem of their choice
- creating a leaflet on a poet or poetic tradition
- writing poems that explore their own cultural identity and what this means to them

Listening

Su Shi and politics

Su Shi was an important figure in politics at the time and had several times, as frequently argued with Wang Anshi's reforms, which got him exiled.

Tongtong meat

There is a legend that Su Shi was making steamed pork, but then was challenged to a game of Chinese chess and forgot about it, it tastes tender and juicy.

Su Shi

Some facts.

Also known as Su Tung'po and 蘇軾, Su Shi not to be confused with Su Shi was born on 8th January 1037 and died 24 August 1101. He was a prominent political figure, as well as a poet, painter, calligrapher and pharmacologist. His poetry is popular in China and Japan, most of it being his poems mostly five character lines but some of them are famous ones being the Qi style (a type of lyric poetry). Tongtong meat is named after him.

Su Shi's work

Over 2,700 of Su Shi's poems survived as well as 100 written essays. Some of the best of his work includes the first and second Chibi, Remembering Su Zhe on the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Red Cliff. He wrote poems about war and love, as well as Buddhism and politics, which got him exiled after the Green Tonsure Poetry trial. In his poems he combines emotions with the quiet beauty of the natural world.

Su Shi

The Chinese poet, painter and calligrapher.

Dr Christopher Warren, GPP





Some of Su Shi's calligraphy

[Latin Poetry Recited - Horace, Ode 1.-4](#)

Christopher

- 'Missing the South of the Yangtze River' by Su Shi

Olive
Opening of 'Eugene Onegin' by Pushkin

'This Is Me'

Das bin ich

Wo komm ich her ?
Wo soll ich hin ?
Haben diese Fragen einen Sinn ?

Werd ich bleiben ?
Soll ich gehen ?
Aber die Zeit wird nicht stehen.

Ich bin deutsch,
Mein Pass ist deutsch ,
Meine Erinnerung sind nicht nur von Deutschland.

Da ist Cairo
Die Türkei
Aber ich weiß
All das macht mich frei .
Und die Erinnerungen fliegen vorbei .

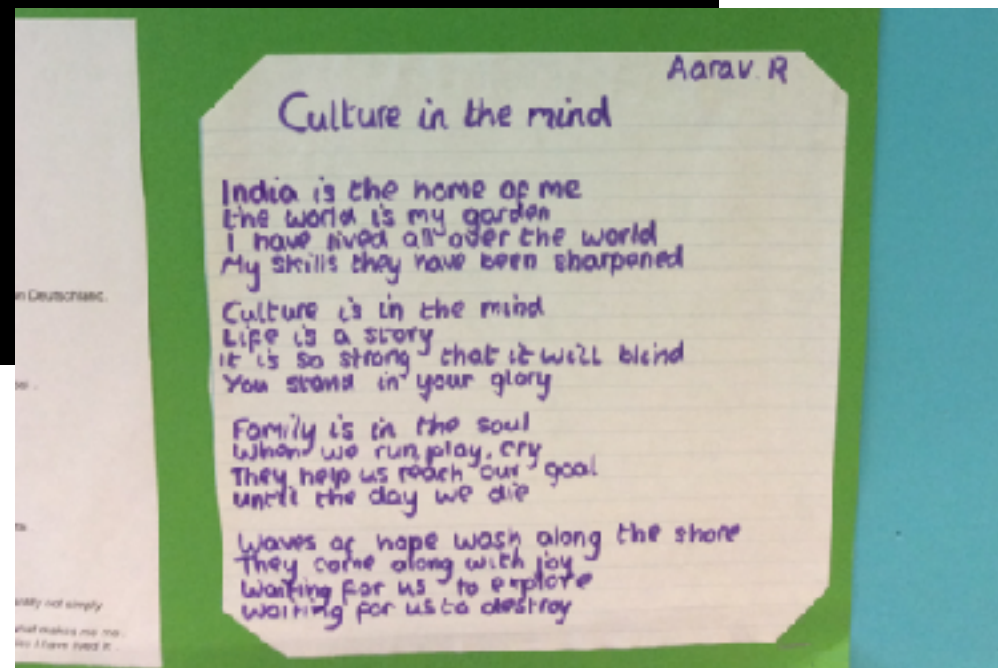
Ich erinnere mich !

Die Idylle
Den Sonnenbrand
In den Hotels an dem Strand .

Niederlande,
Meine Freunde
Ich weiß das ich nichts versäumt .

All das macht mich ,
Das bin ich !

*My poem is about my Cultural identity not simply
being written in my passport .
My memories are who I am and what makes me me .
The memories from all the countries I have lived in .*



Vreiheid

vrijheid is,
Hockey

Het doel ligt nog heel ver voor mij.
Maar al snel kom ik dichterbij.
Toeschoot al voorbij gespeeld.
Nu ligt het goal beter in beeld.

Zo geconcentreerd aan de bal,
En dan opeens een grote knal.
Hard gejuich vult de arena,
Nog sneller dan een hysna

vrijheid is,
Fietsen

Al trappend door het landschap heen.
Maar vast en zeker niet alleen.
De koude wind door mijn haren.
Al jaren, jaren en jaren.

Molens, beekjes en rivieren,
Ook de geur van grote dieren.
De frisse lucht bewondert mij.
Hier voel ik me bijzonder vrij.

vrijheid is,
Schaatsen

Een wit laken bedekt de grond.
Wat ben ik een grote tofkont!
De rivieren zijn bevroren,
Dat kan mijn hart zeer bekoren.

Ik trek mijn schaatsen heel vrag aan.
Om er dan weer vol voor te gaan.
Glijdend over het gladde ijs.
Wat is dit toch een paradijs!

vrijheid is,
Hockey

vrijheid is,
Fietsen

vrijheid is,
Schaatsen

vrijheid is Nederland

'Freedom'

This poem is about the three things that I like to do in Holland: hockey (hockey), fietsen (cycling) and schaatsen (ice skating). I also mentioned the freedom we have in Holland.