



STONEWALL LESSON PLANS – LGBT History Month Poetry

This LGBT History Month, we're focussing on poetry and designed these lesson plans to help you celebrate with your pupils. LGBT History Month was founded by Schools Out, who have been campaigning for LGBT inclusive education for 46 years. Adapt the lesson plan to best suit the needs of your class and to fit the amount of time you have available. We have also developed lesson plans on this theme for pupils with SEND/ASN – these can be found on our website. Other suggested resources are noted in each lesson plan. This lesson is based around a poem called *I want to be a pink flamingo*, which can be found at the source below as well as in Dean Atta's book *The Black Flamingo*.

Who are Stonewall?

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people. At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full. Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. To find out more about our work, visit us at www.stonewall.org.uk.

Enjoyed this resource? Join us today!

Our expert team of qualified teachers and trainers have supported hundreds of settings in their inclusion journeys to make sure all children and young people are free to be themselves. [Our membership programmes for schools and colleges, and for children and young people's services, have something to offer every setting.](#) Join us today and benefit from:

- CPD-accredited e-learning modules
- Regular professional development webinars
- Access to our award schemes
- Personalised support from our team

All this, and more, is included in the price you pay for membership.

STONEWALL LESSON PLANS: LGBT History Month Poetry – Key Stage 2 or P5 to P7



Looking for custom training? Our experienced trainers can provide quality training sessions for ITT providers, teaching schools, professional development networks and many other providers. Email us education@stonewall.org.uk to find out more and discuss your needs.



Year 3 and 4 – England and Wales

P4 and P5 – Scotland

Learning objective: To be able to use a metaphor

Activity	Details	Resources
<p>Whole class: The Pink Flamingo</p>	<p>As a class, read or listen to part of <i>I want to be a pink flamingo</i> by Dean Atta. You can find the poem at 0:42 until 1:27 in the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UdejBoQ1v8</p> <p><u>Please note: The rest of the video is not included in this lesson plan. Some of the poems in the rest of the video are only suitable for older students.</u></p> <p>Ask: Does the poet actually want to be a flamingo? Discuss/revisit the concept of a metaphor.</p> <p>Challenge children to come up with some other metaphors. Think. Pair. Share.</p> <p>Return to the pink flamingo metaphor and discuss that the poet was talking about wanting to blend in and not be different.</p> <p>Explain that Dean Atta often felt different growing up because he is mixed race and that he also felt different because he is gay. Why might Dean not want to feel different to other people? How are people who are “different” treated?</p> <p>What can we do to help our friends know that it’s ok to be different? Discuss that it’s important to actively work to understand people’s differences and to show that we value them as an individual.</p>	<p><u>PowerPoint:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pink Flamingo PowerPoint – Year 3 and 4 P4 and P5 <p><u>Other resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I want to be a pink flamingo by Dean Atta (available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UdejBoQ1v8)



<p>Group discussion: What animal would you be?</p>	<p>In small groups, children should discuss: What animal would you like to be and why? What characteristics of the animal would you like to have in your life? (for example being brave like a penguin or caring like an elephant)</p>	
<p>Individual: Acrostic animal poem</p>	<p>Children write an acrostic poem based on the animal they have chosen. The poem should make it clear that it is about them and that it is a metaphor for something they aspire to.</p> <p>For example: Everyone knows I'm caring, Looking after my family and friends. Even when I'm tired and have walked for miles. Please don't think I'm scary. Holding my friend's tail with my trunk As we walk through the savannah together. Nobody can come between us, That's the way we are.</p> <p>Adaptation: Children who struggle with writing could work with the teacher or teaching assistant to shared write a poem about an animal.</p>	
<p>Plenary: Peer assessment</p>	<p>Children swap poems with a partner. Peer assess: Did the poem capture the characteristics of the animal? Was it clear that it was a metaphor? Which word choices did you like? Suggest a word change to improve the poem.</p>	



Year 5 and 6 – England and Wales

P6 and P7 – Scotland

Learning objective: To be able to write poetry based on an extended metaphor

Activity	Details	Resources
<p>Whole class: The Pink Flamingo</p>	<p>As a class, read or listen to part of <i>I want to be a pink flamingo</i> by Dean Atta. You can find the poem at 0:42 until 1:27 in the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UdejBoQ1v8</p> <p><u>Please note: The rest of the video is not included in this lesson plan. Some of the poems in the rest of the video are only suitable for older students.</u></p> <p>Ask: Does the poet actually want to be a flamingo? What is it called when we use a word or idea to represent something else? Discuss the idea of a metaphor and move the discussion on the idea of an extended metaphor.</p> <p>Challenge children to come up with some other metaphors. Think. Pair. Share.</p> <p>Return to the pink flamingo metaphor and discuss that the poet was talking about wanting to blend in and not be different.</p> <p>Explain that Dean Atta often felt different growing up because he is mixed race and that he also felt different because he is gay. Why might Dean not want to feel different to other people? How are people who are “different” treated?</p> <p>What can we do to help our friends that it’s ok to be different? Discuss that it’s important to actively work to</p>	<p><u>PowerPoint:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pink Flamingo PowerPoint – Year 5 and 6 P6 and P7 <p><u>Other resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I want to be a pink flamingo by Dean Atta (available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UdejBoQ1v8)



	<p>understand people's differences and to show that we value them as an individual.</p>	
<p>Group discussion: What animal would you be?</p>	<p>In small groups, children should discuss: What animal would you like to be and why? What characteristics of the animal would you like to have in your life? (for example being brave like a penguin or caring like an elephant)</p>	
<p>Individual: Animal poem</p>	<p>Children write a poem in the style of The Pink Flamingo, based on the animal they have chosen. The poem should make it clear that it is about them and that it is a metaphor for something they aspire to.</p> <p>Adaptation: Children who struggle with writing could work with the teacher or teaching assistant to shared write a poem about an animal. See also the activity for Year 3 and Year 4 (P4 and P5)</p>	
<p>Plenary: Peer assessment</p>	<p>Children swap poems with a partner. Peer assess: Did the poem capture the characteristics of the animal? Was it clear that it was a metaphor? Which word choices did you like? Suggest a word change to improve the poem.</p>	