

## LITERATURE RESEARCH WITH PROFESSOR WILL MAY

### TALKING POINTS

#### COMPREHENSION

1. Why do people write poetry, and why is poetry important to individuals and society?
2. How can writing provide someone with a 'voice'?
3. Why is mentoring particularly important in the creative industries?

#### ANALYSIS

4. Would you prefer to write alone or with a mentor? Compare the benefits of being a 'lone writer' versus working with a writers' group.
5. Why do you think writers naturally create their own support communities, such as Malika's Kitchen, if no formal mentoring is available to them?
6. How have Romalyn's own experiences as a poet influenced her decision to mentor Eve?
7. And how is Eve benefitting from this mentoring?

#### EVALUATION

8. How would you evaluate the effectiveness of the Poetry Ambassadors scheme?
9. How do you decide whether a poem is 'good'? How would you edit or give feedback on someone's poem?

#### CREATIVITY

10. How would you design an outreach programme to get more people interested in reading and writing poetry?

### ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- Read a poem written by Will's favourite poet, Stevie Smith, or a poem by Romalyn or Eve (see Extra Resources). What is the poem about? How does their choice of language influence the poem? Why do you think they have chosen these particular words, or that specific theme to write about?
- Research poetic forms (e.g. sonnets, haikus, limericks or blank verse) and write one or two of your own. Do you think having a fixed structure makes it easier or harder to write poetry? Now teach a friend to write the same type of poem that you have written. Do you prefer writing or teaching? Did teaching help you learn anything more about writing your own poem?
- Join the Young Poets Network ([ypn.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://ypn.poetrysociety.org.uk)) where you can find a host of ideas for writing prompts, competitions and support for your writing.

### MORE RESOURCES

- Learn more about the Poetry Ambassadors scheme ([www.artfulscribe.co.uk/blog-category/poetry-ambassadors](http://www.artfulscribe.co.uk/blog-category/poetry-ambassadors)) and the Winchester Poetry Festival ([www.winchesterpoetryfestival.org/about](http://www.winchesterpoetryfestival.org/about)).
- If you want to explore English literature, browse the outreach page for the University of Southampton English department (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/english/outreach/index.page>), where you can find podcasts, book recommendations and free online courses, or head to their Writers in Conversation YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6LkmQcxSPD9BORRkKenGg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6LkmQcxSPD9BORRkKenGg)).
- You can buy a copy of the *Poetry Ambassadors* book from Broken Sleep ([www.brokensleepbooks.com](http://www.brokensleepbooks.com)), or read more of Eve's poetry online in the anthologies *Untold Stories* ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/untold-stories/digital-anthology/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/untold-stories/digital-anthology/)), *Do You Hear Me Now?* ([www.doyouhearmenow922238635.wordpress.com/home](http://www.doyouhearmenow922238635.wordpress.com/home)), and *You Speak in Constellations* ([www.issue.com/poetrysociety/docs/commendeds\\_2020\\_foyle\\_anthology\\_issue](http://www.issue.com/poetrysociety/docs/commendeds_2020_foyle_anthology_issue)).
- Learn more about Romalyn's poetry on her personal website ([www.romalynante.com/home](http://www.romalynante.com/home)).