

National Poetry Day, 8th October, 2015.

Light

1. My Light-Hearted Poem

Poetry can be serious, but it should be fun as well.

The expression *light-hearted* is a common one, meaning funny and humorous. Not necessarily hilarious, or fall-down-guffawing: just bringing a smile. In this case, the word *light* is keeping the humour in pleasant control. *Light* poems written using this idea are for fun, and meanings do not have to make serious sense!

There is a model below you can use to help get you started. Some lines are complete and some are starters to be finished. Most of the template lines are left for you to make entirely your own. And of course you could/should add your own other *light-ideas* [in this case, related to the body – internal like the *heart*, or external like a *foot*].

Once you have completed all of the *light*-[body references] you want to use, think about a key feature of each. But remember, these body-ideas are qualified by the word *light*.

For example, the *light-toenailed poem* polishes in *pink* [connotations of feathers and parties and other stereotypical ideas you might want to discuss!] rather than a colour like **black** with its stereotypical ‘dark’ connotations.

Following this example, how might a *light-eared poem* listen lightly? Maybe it only hears pretty sounds, like the sound of birds singing – but that isn’t a very poetic line. So take the idea and transform it: *my light-eared poem listens with its wings*. What it doesn’t do is eavesdrop, for example, which is rude and intrusive.....

Do your research: a *spleen* is an abdominal organ, thus an internal part of the body, but it also has the meaning of being bad tempered – to vent one’s spleen – so think carefully about how you would turn this into a ‘light-hearted’ spleen.

But not all lines need to do things obviously lightly because there are no rules, thus the ‘joke’ of the completed line *my light-eyebrowed poem raises!*

Model

my light-elbowed poem....
my light-livered poem....
my light-eyebrowed poem that raises
my light-spleened poem....
my light-eared poem listens....
my light-toenailed poem polishing in pink
my light-kneed poem....
my light-eyeballed poem....
my light-brained poem....
my light-sinewed poem....
my light-heeled poem....
my light-headed poem....
my light-hearted poem....