

Activity 8: Let's look at a model poem



Below is a poem written by Pie Corbett using *The City of Silence* game called *The Cave of Curiosity*. It is a great example of a poem using a repetitive pattern; this time he starts each verse with the phrase: *In the cave of curiosity*. We are going to look closely at this poem and write some responses.

★ **Start by reading the poem out loud a few times. You can also listen to a reading of the poem here <https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/city/s-UmP7BEbB2cG>**

The Cave of Curiosity

In the cave of curiosity, I created
an angry ant ambling along,
a terrified tarantula tickling a tornado
and a curious computer calling cautiously to the King.

In the cave of curiosity, I created
the sound of silence closing its lips,
a hummingbird's wings flickering,
as the sea silently scrapes the pebbles and ten tired lorries trundle by.

In the cave of curiosity, I created
the touch of smooth stones from the summer beach,
the stickiness of honey on a fingertip
and the heat from a teaspoon as it stirs my morning tea.

In the cave of curiosity, I created
the coldness of frost as it freckles the windowpane,
the sharpness of a saw as it crunches through wood
and the sadness of a tear as it trickles down a cheek.

In the cave of curiosity, I captured
the moon's cold gleam imprisoned in a box,
the joy of a merry-go-round as it spins like a feral ferris wheel
and the force of a rainbow as it dazzles the sky with a smile that stuns.

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★ Now let's look at the poem closely and try to respond to what we have read.

1) Which is your favourite word, line or verse? And why?

2) Which line would you like to change? What would you change it to?

3) Which part of the poem did you find scariest, saddest or most unusual?

4) Find a part of the poem that uses alliteration really effectively.

5) Write Pie a short piece of feedback about his poem. It could follow this structure: 1. Give some praise 2. Offer some advice 3. Ask a question



★ Now have a go at responding to Pie's poem.
