# GLOSSARY OF POETIC TERMS

#### Alliteration

The <u>repetition of the same consonant sounds</u> at any place, but often at the beginning of words. Some famous examples of alliteration are tongue twisters.

She sells seashells by the seashore, Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

#### Assonance

The <u>repetition or a pattern of (the same) vowel sounds</u>, as in the tongue twister: "Moses supposes his toeses are roses."

## Couplet

In a poem, <u>a pair of lines that are the same length and (usually) rhyme and form a complete thought</u>. Shakespearean sonnets usually end in a couplet.

## Enjambment

A line ending in which the sentence continues, with no punctuation, into the following line or stanza.

"But in contentment I still feel The need of some imperishable bliss."

# Hyperbole

A figure of speech in which <u>deliberate exaggeration is used for emphasis</u>. Many everyday expressions are examples of hyperbole:

tons of money, waiting for ages, a flood of tears, etc.

### Imagery

The use of <u>pictures</u>, <u>figures of speech</u> and <u>description</u> to evoke <u>ideas feelings</u>, <u>objects</u> <u>actions</u>, <u>states of mind</u> etc.

#### Litotes

A figure of speech in which <u>a positive is stated by negating its opposite.</u> Some examples of litotes:

no small victory, not a bad idea, not unhappy.

#### Lyric

A poem, such as a sonnet or an ode that <u>expresses the thoughts and</u> <u>feelings of the poet</u>. A lyric poem may resemble a song in form or style.

#### Metaphor

A figure of speech in which <u>two things are compared</u>, <u>usually by saying one thing is another</u>, or by substituting a more descriptive word for the more common or usual word that would be expected. Some examples of metaphors:

the world's a stage, he was a lion in battle, drowning in debt, and a sea of troubles. It is probably the most important figure of speech to comment on in an essay.

# Year 7 Un-seen Poetry Revision Guide

#### Onomatopoeia

A figure of speech in which <u>words are used to imitate sounds</u>. Examples of onomatopoeic words are:

buzz, hiss, zing, clippety-clop, cock-a-doodle-do, pop, splat, thump, tick-tock.

Another example of onomatopoeia is found in this line from Tennyson's Come Down, O Maid:

"The moan of doves in immemorial elms,/And murmuring of innumerable bees"

The repeated "m/n" sounds reinforce the idea of "murmuring" by imitating the hum of insects on a warm summer day

#### **Pastoral**

A poem that <u>pictures country life in a peaceful, idealized way.</u>

#### Personification

A figure of speech in which <u>nonhuman things or abstract ideas are given human attributes</u>: the sky is crying, dead leaves danced in the wind, blind justice.

#### Refrain

A phrase, line, or group of lines that is repeated throughout a poem, usually after every stanza.

#### Rhyme

The occurrence of the same or similar sounds at the end of two or more words.

The pattern of rhyme in a stanza or poem is shown usually by using a different letter for each final sound. In a poem with an *aabba* rhyme scheme, the first, second, and fifth lines end in one sound, and the third and fourth lines end in another. This pattern is known as a **Rhyme scheme** 

#### Simile

A figure of speech in which two things are compared using the word "like" or "as." An example of a simile using *like* occurs in Langston Hughes's poem 'Harlem':

"What happens to a dream deferred? / Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun?"

#### Stanza

Two or more lines of poetry that together form one of the divisions of a poem. The stanzas of a poem are usually of the same length and follow the same pattern of meter and rhyme.

#### Stress

The prominence or emphasis given to particular syllables. Stressed syllables usually stand out because they have long, rather than short, vowels, or because they have a different pitch or are louder than other syllables.

#### Symbol

When a word, phrase or image 'stands for' an idea or theme.

The sun could symbolize life and energy or a red rose could symbolize romantic love.

Your culture is the way you live your life. It is about the country you live in, the clothes you wear, your language or style of speech, the sort of food you eat, how you celebrate important occasions, and the things you believe in and value. Think about your own way of life and try to give examples of these aspects of your culture. You may write or draw your ideas.

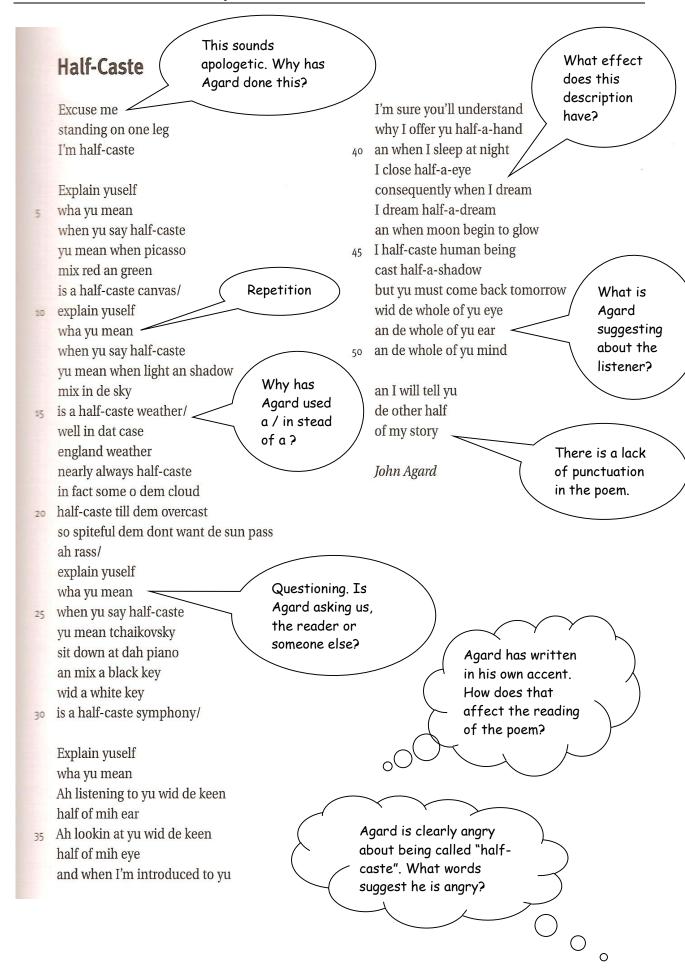
Where I live	My language/ style of speech
The food I eat	Celebrations
The clothes I wear	Things I value

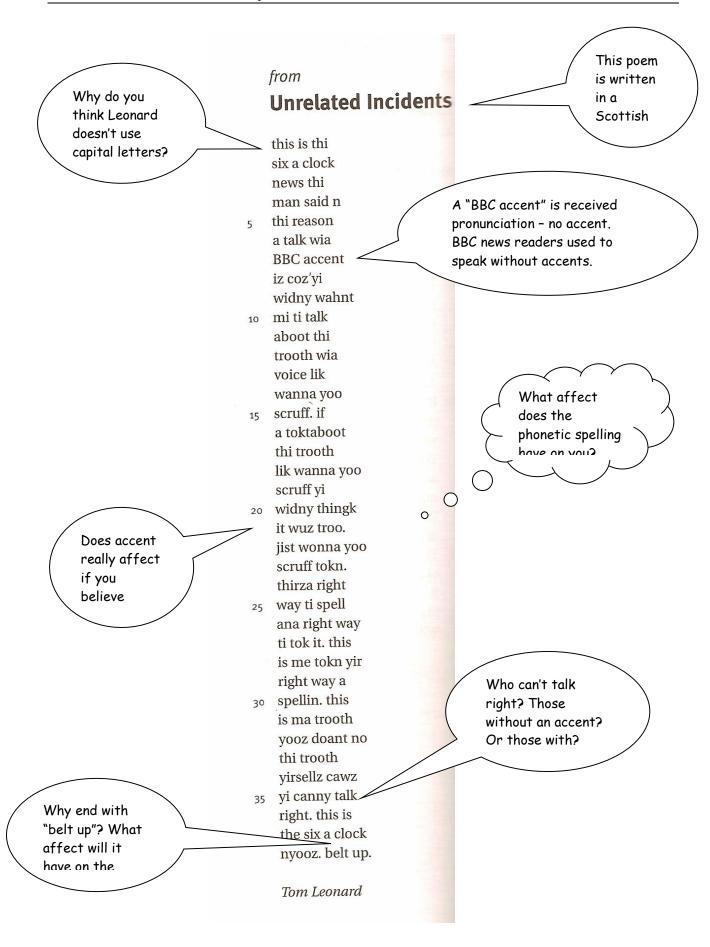
Can you think of any ways your culture is different to that of one other person? Make a list

# Themes that can help you make links between the poems

Ideas about language power and dialect
Feelings about being caught between two cultures
Feelings about change or how things do not change
Ideas about language and identity
Differences between attitudes and values
Beliefs and rituals
Customs and traditions
Protest against ideas and attitudes (including racism)
Feelings about independence

# Year 7 Un-seen Poetry Revision Guide





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This is impossible. So what could it

# **Love After Love**

The time will come
when, with elation
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in your own mirror
and each will smile at the other's welcome,

The tone in the first verse seems joyful

Christian Imagery.

And say, sit here. Eat.

You will love again the stranger who was your self.

Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart to itself, to the stranger who has loved you

What could this

All your life, whom you ignored for another, who knows you by heart. Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,

This may mean the narrator is entering a new life. Or can you see other meanings?

The photographs, the desperate notes, peel your own image from the mirror.

Sit. Feast on your life.

The poem uses a darker tone. Why?

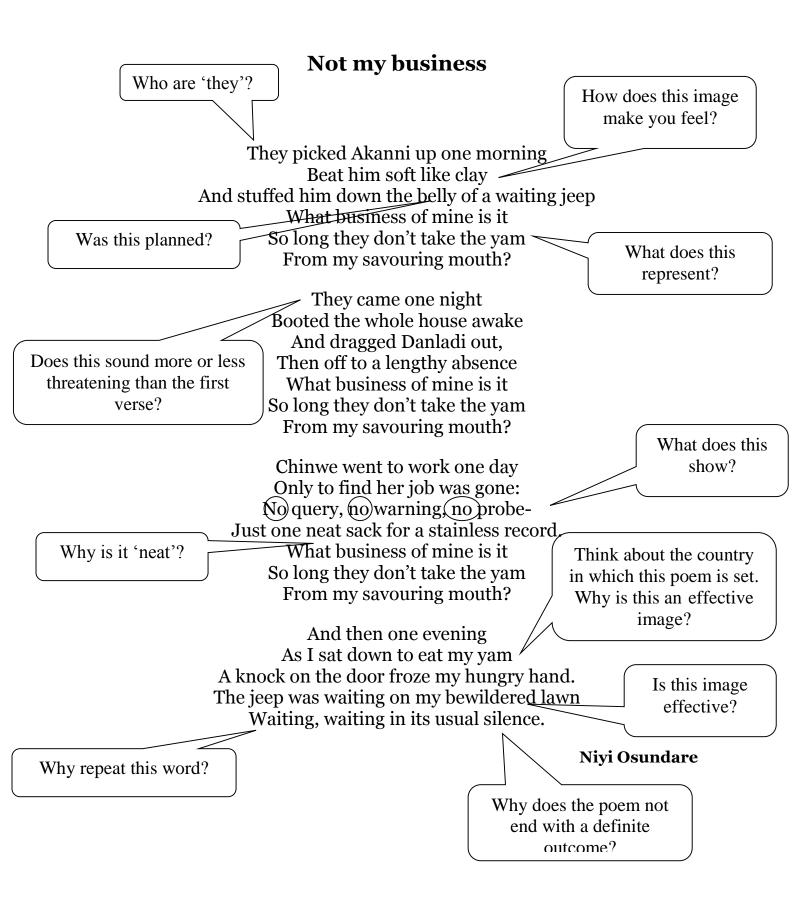
#### ■ DEREK WALCOTT

This poem has several possible meanings:

- Self-discovery.
- Human relationships.
- Religion.

Using different colours identify all the aspects of the poem that suggests each possible meaning.

Nobody can say exactly what this poems means, so you will gain marks if you show that there is more than one possible interpretation.



'Not My Business' is most likely set in Nigeria, Niyi Osundare's country of birth.

He used this poem and others to object to the cruel dictatorship that ruled his country under General Abacha from 1993 to 1998. During Abacha's rule, writing poetry was considered a dangerous activity. Osundare regularly wrote poems for a Nigerian national newspaper which commented on the lives of people in that country. As a result, he was frequently called to account by security agents and quizzed about what his poems meant and to whom they referred. Osundare himself says, "with the kind of poetry I write, I can never be the dictator's friend. So I get a knock on the door at two in the morning a couple of times."

The poem criticises people who allow injustices to go on as long as it does not directly affect them. He suggests that if no one stands up against dictatorship, cruelty, poverty and injustice, it will, eventually, affect their lives.

The poem is a very good example of the narrator's voice being different from that of the poet. Even if we didn't know of Niyi Osundare's political beliefs, we naturally disagree with what the narrator says.

	Underline all the words in the poem that suggest anger and hate.  What is your favourite image in the poem? Write a short summary of why you like this image.
NA.	How do you feel about the narrator in this poem?