

We Are Lewisham Creative Challenge KS3

A National Poetry Day resource by the teachers and children of Dalmain Primary School, from creative workshops with Francesca Beard and support from National Poetry Day.

#NationalPoetryDay
www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk



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Night Music

I saw sounds at night
altering the shapes of trees

tickling shadows
dancing on an owl's tongue,

I saw sounds skipping
from door to door,

rattling the letterbox,
slipping into dreams,

I saw a gentle drumbeat
chase a prancing fox,

amongst a tiny applause
of closing flowers.

Copyright © by **Alex Wharton**
from *Daydreams and Jellybeans* by Alex Wharton,
illustrated by Katy Riddell (Firefly Press, 2021)

Poems can make sense in unusual ways.

Read 'Night Music' by Alex Wharton and talk about it together.

- Do any of the descriptions of the sounds surprise you?
- What do you think is meant by sounds altering the shapes of trees?
- What do you think about the image of sounds dancing on an owl's tongue?
- How can sounds slip into dreams? (remember there is no wrong answer here).

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Look at some images of nature and brainstorm what sounds there might be and what effect they might have.

Now think about some less obvious verbs to describe the movement of the sounds e.g thunder 'punching'.

You could write a poem now using the refrain: I saw sounds.

Or you can take it in a different direction:

- Think about the change you want to see for the environment.
- What do we mean by change?
- Who has the power to change things, and how would you speak to them?
- What sort of language would you use?

Together list some ideas of who or what you want to change things for. For example, you might want to change things for the trees being cut down/for a species on the verge of extinction/for your grandchildren.

Now write a poem, using this structure:

I speak the language of... to the...

example: *I speak the language of the forests to the politicians
who are felling them*



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