



The
**EVERTON
COLLECTION**
Schools & Learning

Literacy
Key Stage 2

Writing poems about football...





Overview

Focusing on an object can help give pupils ideas for their own poems. Performance poet Paul Cookson has written a series of poems about some of his favourite objects from the Everton Collection. Each poem in this resource is supported by notes from Paul about how pupils can write their poems and a photograph of the object he is writing about.

National Curriculum links

English: Key Stage 1: En2: 1c, 3c, d, e, f, 6a, f. En3: 1c, d, f, 2b, d, 12. Key Stage 2: En2: 4f, g, i, 8c. En3: 1a, b, d, 2, 9a, 12.

Literacy Strategy: Year 1 – Poetry Unit 3, Year 2 – Poetry Unit 2, Year 3 – Poetry Unit 1, Year 4 – Poetry Unit 1, Year 5 – Poetry Unit 1 & 3, Year 6 – Poetry Unit 1 & 2.

Learning Objectives

- To explore poetry on a football theme
- Explore different ways of performing poems using rhythm, beat, tone of voice etc.
- To write a simple poem
- To read poems and listen to them being performed by the teacher and class mates.



In this resource Paul Cookson has written a selection of poems inspired by some of his favourite objects in the Everton Collection. Each poem is supported by 'poet's notes...' and a photograph of the object. Pupils can search for objects on the Everton Collection website and use Paul's notes to help them write poems of their own.

BALLY'S BOOTS

I always wanted boots like yours.
White, distinctive, unique
One of a kind –
Or two of a kind to be exact

You were the first
The original
Stood out head and shoulders above the rest
Even though you weren't

A trademark, a brand
Not one of the crowd
A maverick approach
White – not for surrender

Yes, I really wanted boots like yours
But if the truth be known
What I really, really wanted
Was to be able to play football like you

And then wear white football boots

PAUL COOKSON

POET'S NOTES...

This poem is almost like a letter to Alan Ball, saying why I liked his boots and what they stood for. I imagined being able to speak to him...maybe you could use that technique with a poem of your own...

1. Choose an item from the Everton Collection
2. Imagine that you are sending a letter to the owner of that item
3. What would you say to them?
4. Why do you like them/the item?

With this poem, I wouldn't worry too much about the rhymes but concentrate on the voice, the rhythm. How does it sound when you say it out loud? Does it feel natural?

Paul Cookson with Alan Ball's football boots



THE GOODISON GOD FATHERS

Gaberdine gangsters
Merseyside Mafia
Dressed to kill
The dirty dozen

Hit-men and hired guns
Tough guys and target men
All of them – shooters
Goodison godfathers

Don't tread on their turf
Don't trespass their pitch
Everton heavies
Untouchables

PAUL COOKSON

POET'S NOTES...

This poem comes from a picture of the Everton team before the 1933 F.A. Cup Final where they wore raincoats for a promotional photograph. They looked like gangsters, so I tried to think of all the phrases and images that I could come up with to do with gangsters and the mafia that I could apply to footballers. Then I divided them into three or four line verses. I'd like to say that twelve lines in special – equal to the number of players in the picture – but that's purely accidental. Do think of how you set out your poem though – start a new line when you take a breath. Try writing in phrases rather than in sentences.





THIRTY YEARS OF SHARING

A city united by football
A city united by passion
A city united by sport
A city united obsession

The blue and the red – side by side
Both singing from the same page
The blue and the red – both together
Sharing this platform and this stage

Three score years united
The fans devour each word
Everyone read the blue and the red
In the match day programme shared

PAUL COOKSON

POET'S NOTES...

This poem was inspired by the match-day programme that Everton and Liverpool football clubs shared for 30 years.

A page from a shared match day programme

<p>EMPIRE THEATRE, Lime Street, Liverpool. PROPRIETORS: MOSS'S "EMPIRES," LIMITED. To-night: ALEC HURLEY, "The Coster's Friendly Lead," and his London Co. Welcome Return of Handsome LELIA ROZE, "My Banjo Leo." Monday, October 2nd, and every Evening during the week. HARRY RANDALL, the Comedian. JOHN TILLER'S "SNOWDROPS." BROS. REDMOND, LAVATER LEE, MARION SCOTT, BERT WOODWARD, EDITH COURTNEY, KAHN & KAHN, MARIE BLYTHE, PROFESSOR DUNNING, And Second Week of ALEC HURLEY and his London Co. TELEPHONE 6116 BOX OFFICE 11 to 4.</p>		<p>Royal Hippodrome, West Derby Road. Managing Director: Mr. THOMAS BARRASFORD. To-night: JORDAN & HARRY Y., America's Greatest Hebrew Comedians. ROYAL TOKIO TROUPE, Japanese Jugglers. Monday, October 2nd, and during the week. Two Performances Nightly, 6-50 & 9. VESTA VICTORIA, "A Vocal Surprise." "A Vesta that Strikes Anywhere." PAULINE ZARGO, ARTHUR SLATER, WARD BROS., GRANT & GRANT, 4 NAIRDS, PHILLIP BROS., 5 ORLACS, HARRY TAYLOR, ANIMATED PICTURES. GEORGE LEYTON, in an Entirely New Naval Scene. Matinee every Wednesday. Doors open at 2.30. Stalls, 1s. Circle, 6d. Pit, 4d. Gallery, 2d. Early Door Extra. Boxes 10s. 6d. (10 seats) 1 person, 12 6d. per seat. All children must be paid for.</p>	
<p>EVERTON v. LIVERPOOL At Goodison Road. Kick off at 3.30 (Right) 1 Scott (Left) 1 2 B. Palmer 3 Crolley 4 5 Makepeace 6 Taylor 7 Abbott 8 9 Sharp 10 McDermott 11 Settle 12 Hartman 13 Young 14 Hunt 15 Hunt 16 Cox 17 Cadden 18 Robinson 19 Raybould 20 21 Parry 22 Baitbeck 23 Braudley (Left) 24 West 25 Suntop (Right) 26 27 Dugg 28 Home—Messrs R.G. Park & W. Archer</p>		<p>Lyric Theatre EVERTON VALLEY. Sole Lessee and Manager: Mr. HENRY C. ARNOLD, Director of Entertainments. Messrs T. BARRASFORD & F. WILLMOT. To-night: MISS ELLA FOREST BRED LIONS. JUNO SALMO, the "Golden Memphis." Monday, Oct. 2nd, and during the week, Twice Nightly at 6-50 & 9. G BROTHERS' LUCK-6 In each 1st House: THE HERMIT In each 2nd House: THE HERMIT FRANCO PIPE, WALTER EMERSON, IDA GLADSTONE, BIOSCOPE, WHITLEYS, RUTH MOLLOY, ELTON and ELMA, &c. Popular Prices. MATINEE EVERY THURSDAY AT 2-50. TEL. 1169 Royal</p>	
<p>SMOKE BUTLER'S J. R. B. No. 1 SPECIAL CIGARETTES, 3d. per packet of 10. TOKIO TOBACCO - 5d. per oz. REMEMBRANCE MIXTURE - 4d. per oz. REMEMBRANCE CIGARETTES, 6d. per oz. J. R. B. IMPERIAL ROTHSCHILD'S CIGARS, 3d. each; 5 for 1/-. TOKIO CIGARETTES, 6d. per packet of 20. Only Addresses are: Wholesale and Retail, 11, PRESCOT ROAD, 213, KENSINGTON & SMITHDOWN ROAD, Telephone: 5248 City Area. 4 Queens View Road</p>		<p>LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. SEASON 1905-6. Season Tickets are now ready and can be had on application to the Office on the Ground. Reserved Covered Stand - 2/- Unreserved do. - 15/- Ground Ticket - 6/- Ladies and Boy's Half Price. TOM WATSON, Secretary.</p>	
<p>"DON'T ARGUE!" BUY A COPY OF WEDDELL'S UNIQUE RECORD OF LEAGUE FOOTBALL, Which gives the result of every League Match, also the date it was played, the commencement, amount of the League, 20 years First Division, 15 years Second Division, 40 for total number of goals scored by each Club, and their position at the end of each season. Also Full Records of all Test Matches. Indispensable to every follower of League Football. PRICE ONE PENNY. JUST PUBLISHED.</p>		<p>DANCING. CLAREMONT HOUSE, EVERTON ROAD. Mrs. PEPPER'S Various Classes ARE RESUMED. The season will be opened on FRIDAY, 27th OCTOBER, 1905. With all the latest dances. W. C. CLIFF, Secretary.</p>	
<p>EVERTON FOOTBALL CLUB. SEASON TICKETS are now on sale and may be obtained at the Office, BULLEN'S ROAD. Reserved Stand - 2/- Unreserved do. - 15/- Ground Ticket - 6/- Ladies and Boy's Half Price. At Tickets are sent subject to the Service of our Football Association. Reservations by post should be made promptly and additional seating. W. C. CLIFF, Secretary.</p>		<p>LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW "LATE LOCAL" EDITION (On sale about 7-30 p.m.) of the FOOTBALL ECHO. TO-NIGHT'S New Edition Will contain Complete Reports, Notes by Bee, and all Results.</p>	

WHAT HISTORY THIS RATTLE KNOWS

If you could talk
What stories you could tell –
The millions of moments
The magic and the matches

The encouragement you gave
The celebrations you led
The noise you made
In the places you've been

The kick-offs you anticipated
The goals that brought you to life
The tackles you reacted to
The trophies you welcomed home

Rat-a-tat-tat-tat-tat
Machine gun rat-a-tat-tackle
Rat-a-tat-tat-tat-tat
Everton supporter's rattle

Rat-a-tat-tat-tat-tat
Round and round and round
Rat-a-tat-tat-tat-tat
The sound that fills the ground

PAUL COOKSON

POET'S NOTES...

This poem was inspired by a rattle that a fan took to an F.A. Cup match in 1966. I chose this because a fan is likely to have taken a rattle along with them to every match they went to. Imagine the occasions that rattle was part of ... That's how the poem started.

Again, I've addressed the rattle as a "person" (this is called "personification" – get your teacher to help you!)

1. You could pick an item and imagine it could talk ...
2. What would it say?
3. What memories would it have?
4. Where would it have been?
5. What are the best things about being this item?
6. What are the worst things about being this item?

You could even have a repeating line to start each verse / stanza. For example if we use the rattle,

I am the rattle that makes the noise
I am the rattle that cheers each tackle
I am the rattle that whirls all around

And so on ...

1966 F.A. Cup Rattle





THE BARCELONA CUP

Before the world had heard of Barcelona
F.C. – the brand
We were there

Before any of the reds dominated Europe
We were there
Before the Champions League was born
We were there

Nineteen twenty four and a 3 – 2 win
We were there

When history was made
We were there

First European trophy ever lifted by an
English team
There we were

PAUL COOKSON

POET'S NOTES

This poem was inspired by one of the oldest and rarest trophies in the Everton Collection...the Barcelona Cup. It was awarded to Everton F.C. in 1924 for beating Newcastle United in the Final of the Barcelona Cup competition, a special European competition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Barcelona F.C.

Barcelona Cup 1924





More ideas for your own football poems...

Objects from the Everton Collection exhibition or places that you would see at a football match make great starting points for poems.

For example,

The turnstile
The supporters stand
The Cup Final ball
The shirt belonging to a favourite player

Have a brainstorm first. What have they seen? Think of all the different things they could have been involved in. The good times, the bad times, particular matches, particular incidents. Pick some of those out.

Start with a phrase like...

This is a turnstile
Over a million turns
Thousands of matches
The fans who have passed this way

Or

This is the stand where...

Or

The Cup Final ball
We followed your every movement...

Or

If only I could wear that shirt
Then I...

If you want to begin with a phrase you could look at all the important occasions in the club's history...

I was there when the book was signed
And we were christened Goodison Park

I was there when Dixie got his first goal...

...and so on...

Where were you when...

Each object has a story to tell – your job as a writer and poet is to discover this story, bring it out. Start with something factual and then exaggerate, make it up...go where the ideas take you.



If you would like to make any comments about our resources or find out other ways that the Everton Collection can be used to support learning then please contact:

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