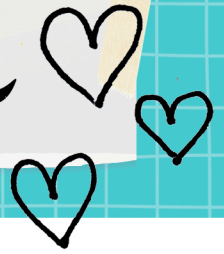


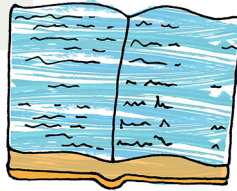
Contents Page Poem

by Deanna Rodger



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You will need: Any books which have contents pages (poetry, novels, autobiographies, even song titles on an album).



The contents page of a book is an intriguing place. Titles can reveal as much as they obscure. This activity invites you to delve into your favourite books, create your own contents page and craft a poem from these titles. This exercise is inspired by an icebreaker from poet and playwright Caroline Bird.



3 Read your contents page out loud. Consider the order they would go in and the story you are trying to share. How do you map the journey through your poetry collection? (10 mins)

4 Use your titles to create a poem. It could be a list poem, have a narrative, rhyme or rhythm. Lines could compliment, clash or branch off. Lines could repeat. e.g. Wash load 1, Wash load 2, Wash load 18. Let your titles inspire this stage of creation. Don't be afraid to destroy it and rebuild it. (15 mins)

5 Give your finished poem a title or use the title 'A book begins with the contents'.

Technique

1 Explore a range of contents pages and make a list of the ones that interest or intrigue you, the ones that sum up a story perfectly or make you smile. (10 mins)

2 Imagine you are creating a poetry collection. What would your content page look like? Do the poems cover your whole life? Becoming a parent? Or specific experiences or feelings? Write at least 20 titles for your contents page. Which titles would make you want to read that poem?! (10 mins)

6 Share your contents page poems.

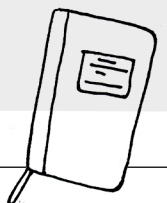
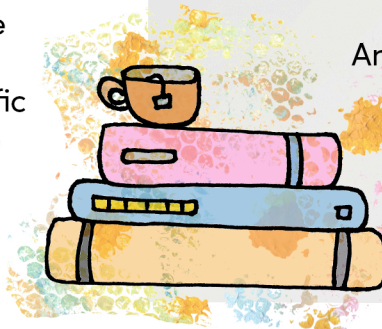


Here are some titles I really like:

And If I Speak of Paradise
(by Roger Robinson)

An Interruption During Dinner
(by Martha Sprackland)

It Sneaks Up on You
(by Caroline Bird)



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