

Daily Reading: The Twinkl Poetry Collection 4

The **video** focuses on **answering comprehension questions about a poem**. Children watch the video relating to the poem 'Questions for Reflection'. They may choose to answer the questions on their activity sheet, they could think about the answers, or you may prefer to talk about them together. If they want to write down their answers, they can pause the video to give them time to write. Answers or example answers are included below. There are also some questions they may wish to answer at the end of the video. It will be useful for them to have the poem in front of them (included in this pack) to find the answers to these questions.

Watch Video



Questions for Reflection

During the Video



1. Look at the first verse. Give one question that the poet wants to ask their reflection.

In verse 1, there are two questions. The poet wants to know:

- **where their reflection goes when they're not watching;**
 - **whether it just watches them walk away.**
2. Why does the poet feel sorry for their reflection? Explain your answer.
The poet feels sorry for the reflection because '[it] must get very bored copying what I do'. The poet thinks that copying someone else all day must be boring and would prefer to be doing circus tricks or ballet.
 3. Why does the poet think that 'trams are really smart'?
Children should notice that 'trams' is 'smart' written backwards. The poet is suggesting that words are written backwards in the mirror world and that this would make trams 'smart'.

After the Video



4. Explain what this poem is about in two or three sentences.

Children should summarise the text in two or three sentences, including any of the following details:

- **the narrator wonders what happens to their reflection when they turn around or leave;**
 - **the poem lists things that the reflection might do;**
 - **the poet lists things that they would do if they were a reflection;**
 - **the poet wonders what the 'mirror world' is like;**
 - **the poet wonders if they look strange to their reflection;**
 - **the poem finishes with the frustration of the reflection never answering the questions.**
5. Describe the rhyming pattern in this poem.
In each verse, the first two lines form a rhyming pair and the third and fourth lines make another rhyming pair. (This is sometimes known as 'couplets' and can also be described as an 'AABB' pattern, where both A lines rhyme and both B lines rhyme. The rhyming words are at the ends of the lines.)
 6. What is the problem when the poet tries to ask all of their questions?
that the reflection never answers; 'it just says the same as me'.

7. What do you think the reflection does when the poet isn't there? Explain your answer.

Children may explain their own ideas but should elaborate, such as 'I think that the reflection disappears when the poet isn't there because a reflection can't exist without the real person' or 'I think that the reflection goes away and has fun because the poet says that it must be very boring copying a real person all the time.'

8. Find and copy three things that the poet wonders about their reflection.

Any three of the following:

- **Where does my reflection go when I'm not there to see?**
- **Does it just watch me go?**
- **I wonder if it pulls a face...**
- **...and laughs behind my back...**
- **...or sits and puts its feet up with a cheeky little snack.**
- **(or) throws a party (and invites all its reflection friends)**
- **Does my reflection look at me and wonder these things, too?**

There are other questions in the poem such as 'Do I look back-to-front[...]?' but these do not directly relate to the poet's reflection. Do not accept suggestions from the third verse where the poet lists things that *they would do differently*.

Deeper Reading



9. Come up with an alternative line for the final line of verse 3, which rhymes with 'tricks' and lists things that a reflection could do.

Children may invent their own line of text which rhymes with 'tricks' and lists ideas for the reflection's entertainment. They should bear in mind the length of the final line in the verse (count syllables for accuracy).

10. Why do you think this poem is called 'Questions for Reflection'? Explain your answer.

Children should recognise that the poem is made up of a list of questions and wonderings. They should also understand the play on words that is created using the word 'reflection'. The poem is, at the same time, a list of questions to be asked to a reflection and a list of questions to be reflected upon.

This is a difficult concept, so if your child did not identify the play on words, explain the double meaning of the word 'reflection':

- (1) **an image shown in a mirror and created by light bouncing off a smooth surface;**
- (2) **serious thought or consideration.**

Related Activity



Each day, an activity related to the session will be provided. This activity asks children to create a photo, video or performance using the poem as inspiration. Can they create a photo where their reflection seems to be behaving oddly? You could:

- hold up an empty photo frame between two people;
- stand in front of a large photo of the child as though it is a reflection;
- angle a mirror so that it reflects something else;
- edit a photograph to create an illusion;
- create a performance using two people. If you do this, use the **Pair Performance Planning Activity Sheet** to help you to prepare your actions.