

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

25th
anniversary

3RD OCTOBER 2019

The Truth versus Fake News

*A poetry writing activity
created by the National
Literacy Trust*

Key stage 3



The **National Literacy Trust** is an independent charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed in life. www.literacytrust.org.uk

Three Lies and One Truth about the Moon

1. The moon only exists at night, and occasionally during the day, in summer
2. No-one has ever landed on the moon, and the Russian President knows this but promised his mum he wouldn't say anything
3. The moon is a hollow spaceship inhabited by Nazi rabbits that turn men into werewolves
4. If my heart was as big as the moon I couldn't love you more

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www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

Starter (10 mins)

As a class generate a list of news headlines.

You could do this by:

- taking the CBBC real or fake news quiz: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/real-or-fake-news-quiz>
- playing 'two truths and a lie', encouraging students to share surprising facts or amazing things they have done
- asking students for the latest information they have found out about celebrities, e.g. from social media or magazines

Poetry relay (5 mins)

Divide the class up into teams and provide each team with one headline from the list.

This headline is now the first line of a new poem.

In their teams, each student should write a new line of poetry when they are passed the 'baton' (the pen!). Make sure you set a time limit. Share the different poems after the race.



Writing a poem (20 mins)

Allow students time to create their own poem inspired by a news story. You could do this by:

- **Using the group relay poem**
Students could choose their favourite lines from the group poem and rearrange them, use them as the starting point for a new poem or use one of the lines as the title for their poem.
- **Mixing and matching headlines**
Provide students with handful of words or lines cut from real newspapers. They could piece lines of text together to make a new poem or could create their own 'headline' using individual words.
- **Listing rumours**
Have students create a list poem using stories about a particular celebrity or write a poem from the celebrity's perspective, reflecting on whether the stories about them are true or not and what the impact of that might be.

Performance and feedback (10 mins)

Encourage students to share their poems with their partner and to provide feedback using a model they are familiar with (e.g. two stars and a wish).

