

'Dear Matafele Peinem'

Listen to activist poet, Kathy Jetner-Kijiner's poem 'Dear Matafele Peinem' and create your own activist poem on the need for us to take action on climate change.

Aims

- ▶ Increase knowledge and understanding of climate change and the issues those affected face.
- ▶ Develop our skills in writing a poem.

What you need

- Powerpoint, [YouTube video of the poem](#)
- Poetry planner worksheet – see next page

What to do

Introduce the poet and her home country, the Marshall Islands. You may wish to share [this short film clip](#) about the islands which are under severe threat from rising sea levels.

Listen to the poem and ask the following questions:

- What are some of the key points the poet makes?
- What emotions does the poet evoke when performing?
- What image or line or aspect of the poem is the most memorable and why?
- What about this poem makes it perfect for performing and listening to rather than reading?
- Who do you think this poem is directed at?
- How does this connect with what you have seen in the news or on social media?

Pupils are now going to work on writing their own campaign poem based on the style of 'Dear Matafele Peinem'. They can use the worksheet to help structure their poem.

Reflection and evaluation

Once the class have written their poetry decide as a group how you might use them. They could present them in an assembly or in the local community. They could record themselves performing them and send them to appropriate people or create a social media campaign with them. Why not enter the poems into our poetry writing activity competition – visit www.stridemagazine.org.uk / What's On section / Poetry Competition

Poetry
planner
worksheet

WORKSHEET – Poetry planner:

Issue: Climate change		
	Notes	Techniques / ideas
1. Who is your poem addressed to?		
2. Describe the issue		
3. People who are affected		
4. How have people been campaigning?		
5. What needs to happen?		