



lingoda

Poetry

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1057R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

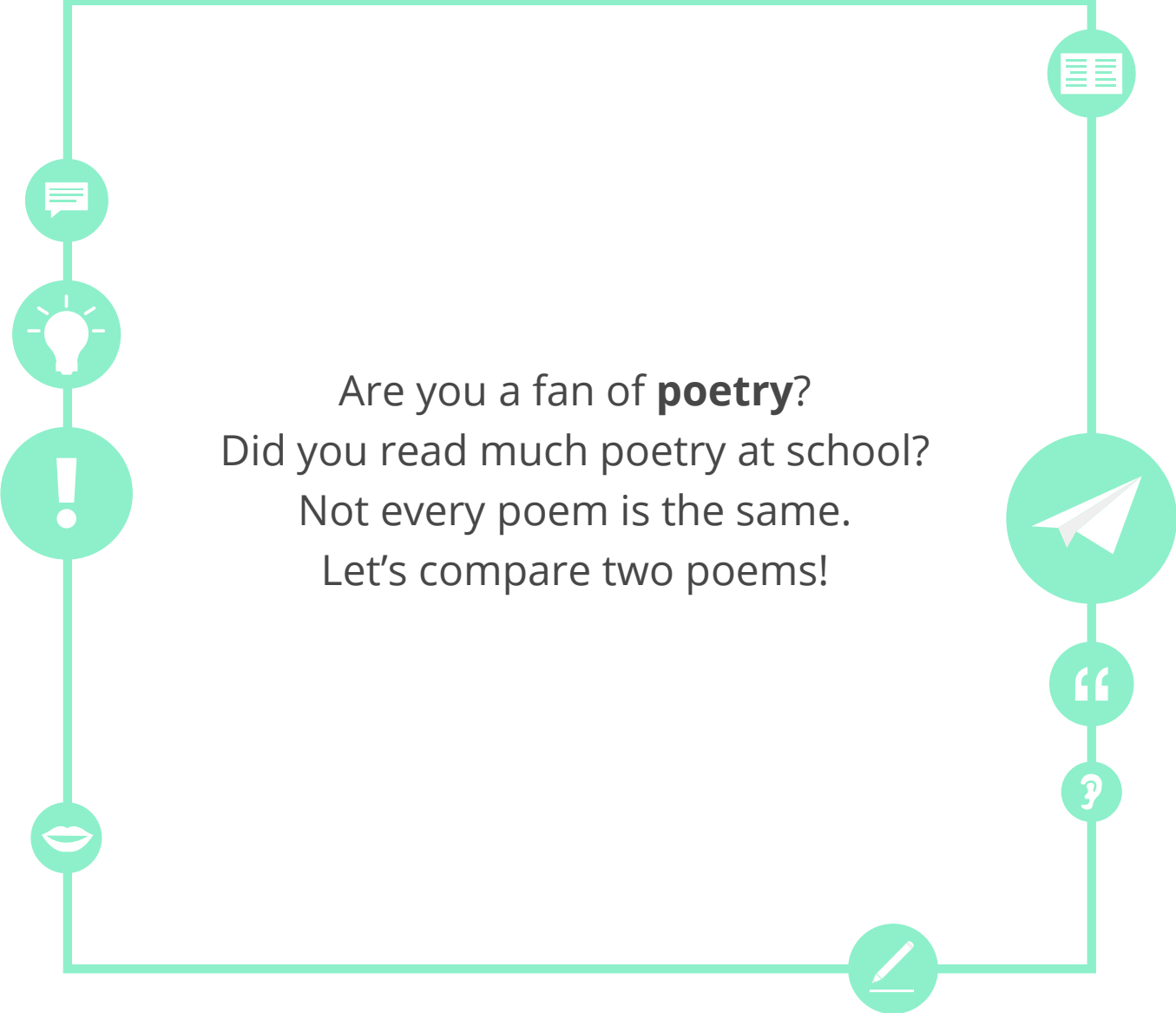




Goals

- Can read and decipher the meaning behind the poetry of Max Ehrmann and Robert W Service.
- Can participate in an extended discussion about the significance, tone and meaning of poetry and present my own ideas successfully.





Are you a fan of **poetry**?
Did you read much poetry at school?
Not every poem is the same.
Let's compare two poems!



Poetry and you



When was the last time you read
a poem?

Was poetry at school a pleasure
or a chore?

Do you believe poetry always
has to rhyme?



Why poetry?

Why do you think somebody might choose to express an idea with a poem instead of a short story or an essay?





Are you a poet?

Poetry is a kind of storytelling but in a special form.

Look at the pictures below.

How might a poet describe each scene?

Think about visuals, descriptions, texture, emotions and sounds.



descriptive



imaginative



Vocabulary review

placid

dull

caution

vain

humble



surrender

cynical

graceful



Words in context

placid

We stayed in the most beautiful village. It had a **placid** pace and I felt wonderfully relaxed by the end of the week.

caution

The road ahead is winding and long; proceed with **caution**.

humble

She was **humble** about her success as an award-winning author.

cynical

Ever since he lost his job, he has been very **cynical** about the workplace.



Words in context

graceful

She was very **graceful** in the way she conducted herself.

surrender

Even though he was on a diet, he **surrendered** to temptation and ate the burger and chips.

vain

She tried in **vain** to complete her thesis, but she missed the deadline.

dull

I find her very **dull**, she doesn't seem to have an opinion regarding any topic.



Poetry



The first poem we will read is written by Max Ehrmann. He was an American writer and studied philosophy and law at Harvard University. He passed away in 1945.



Desiderata by Max Ehrmann

Go **placidly amid** the noise and the **haste**,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without **surrender**,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even to the **dull** and the **ignorant**;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons;
they are **vexatious** to the spirit.



Desiderata by Max Ehrmann

If you compare yourself with others,
you may become **vain** or **bitter**,
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however **humble**;
it is a real possession in the changing **fortunes** of time.



Desiderata by Max Ehrmann

Exercise **caution** in your business affairs,
for the world is full of **trickery**.
But let this not blind you to what **virtue** there is;
many persons **strive** for high ideals,
and everywhere life is full of **heroism**.
Be yourself. Especially do not **feign** affection.
Neither be **cynical** about love,
for in the face of all **aridity** and **disenchantment**,
it is as **perennial** as the grass.

Take kindly the **counsel** of the years,
gracefully **surrendering** the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of **fatigue** and loneliness.



What does it mean?

Reread the extract of the poem.
What do you think is the purpose
of this poem?
Give reasons for your answer.



Adjectives

Below are some of the adjectives used in the poem.
Can you find synonyms for them?



placid

clear

dull

ignorant

vain

humble

lonely

blind

greater



Now you try!

Look back at the poem with your list of synonyms handy. Use them to retell the extract in your own words.



Desiderata by Max Ehrmann



Beyond a **wholesome** discipline,
be gentle with yourself.
You are a child of the universe
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is **unfolding** as it should.



Desiderata by Max Ehrmann

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you **conceive** Him to be.
And whatever your labours and **aspirations**,
in the noisy confusion of life,
keep peace in your soul.

With all its **sham, drudgery**, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.



Vocabulary review. Can you describe each word?

wholesome

unfold

conceive

sham

drudgery

fatigue



Tone and poetry

**Read the poem again.
How would you describe
the overall tone of the
poem? Does the tone
change throughout the
poem?**



Your opinion

Did you like the poem?
Explain your answer using the words below to help you.





Poetry

We will now read another poem
by a different writer.

Robert W. Service was a British-
Canadian poet. He began writing
at the age of 6 and was
commercially successful.





Vocabulary review. Can you describe the meaning of each of the below?

to seek

to scabble

exile

foe



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

I wanted the gold, and I **sought** it,
I **scrabbled** and **mucked** like a slave.
Was it famine or **scurvy** -- I fought it;
I hurled my youth into a grave.
I wanted the gold, and I got it --
Came out with a fortune last fall, --
Yet somehow life's not what I thought it,
And somehow the gold isn't all.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

No! There's the land. (Have you seen it?)
It's the **cussedest** land that I know,
From the big, dizzy mountains that screen it
To the deep, deathlike valleys below.
Some say God was tired when He made it;
Some say it's a fine land to **shun**;
Maybe; but there's some as would trade it
For no land on earth -- and I'm one.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service



You come to get rich (**damned** good reason);
You feel like an **exile** at first;
You hate it like hell for a season,
And then you are worse than the worst.
It **grips** you like some kinds of sinning;
It **twists** you from **foe** to a friend;
It seems it's been since the beginning;
It seems it will be to the end.



Quick question

How would you describe the tone of this poem so far? Give evidence for your opinions.

dark

bitter

sad

angry



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

I've stood in some **mighty-mouthed hollow**
That's **plumb-full** of **hush** to the **brim**;
I've watched the big, **husky** sun **wallow**
In **crimson** and gold, and grow dim,
Till the moon set the **pearly** peaks **gleaming**,
And the stars **tumbled** out, neck and crop;
And I've thought that I surely was dreaming,
With the peace o' the world piled on top.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

The summer -- no sweeter was ever;
The sunshiny woods all **athrill**;
The grayling **aleap** in the river,
The bighorn asleep on the hill.
The strong life that never knows harness;
The wilds where the **caribou** call;
The freshness, the freedom, the farness --
O God! how I'm stuck on it all.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service



The winter! the brightness that blinds you,
The white land locked tight as a drum,
The cold fear that follows and finds you,
The silence that **bludgeons** you dumb.
The snows that are older than history,
The woods where the weird shadows **slant**;
The stillness, the moonlight, the mystery,
I've **bade** 'em good-by -- but I can't.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

There's a land where the mountains are **nameless**,
And the rivers all run God knows where;
There are lives that are **erring** and **aimless**,
And deaths that just hang by a hair;
There are **hardships** that nobody reckons;
There are valleys **unpeopled** and still;
There's a land -- oh, it **beckons** and beckons,
And I want to go back -- and I will.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

They're making my money **diminish**;
I'm sick of the taste of champagne.
Thank God! when I'm **skinned** to a finish
I'll pike to the Yukon again.
I'll fight -- and you bet it's no sham-fight;
It's hell! -- but I've been there before;
And it's better than this by a **damsite** --
So me for the Yukon once more.



The Spell of the Yukon by Robert W. Service

There's gold, and it's **haunting** and haunting;
It's **luring** me on as of old;
Yet it isn't the gold that I'm wanting
So much as just finding the gold.
It's the great, big, **broad** land 'way **up yonder**,
It's the forests where silence has **lease**;
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,
It's the stillness that fills me with peace.



Glorious descriptions

Read back through the poem. How many different words that describe shades of colours can you find?





Repetition

Did you notice any themes or words which were repeated in the poem? Make a list here and discuss why you think they are repeated.

A sheet of white lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side. The paper has ten horizontal lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.



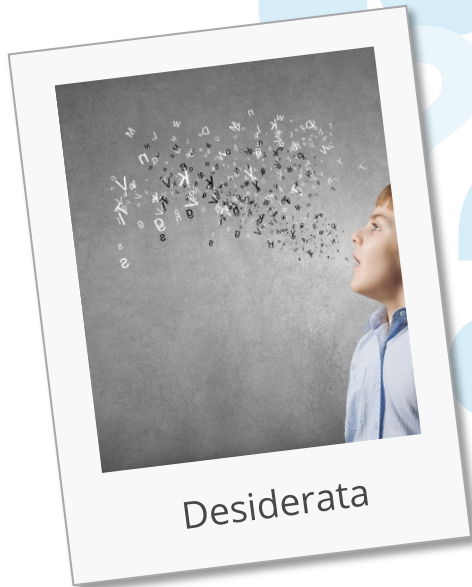
Differences in tone and emotion

How does the second poem differ from the first poem?

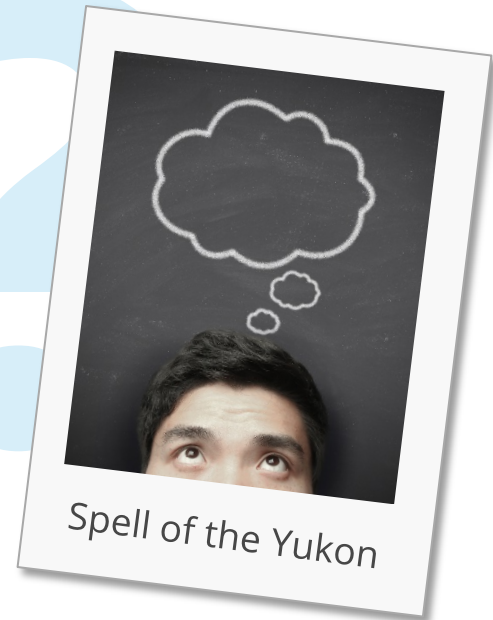


Big question

What is the message of each poem? Are they different?



Desiderata



Spell of the Yukon



What do you think?

Which poem did you like best
and why?



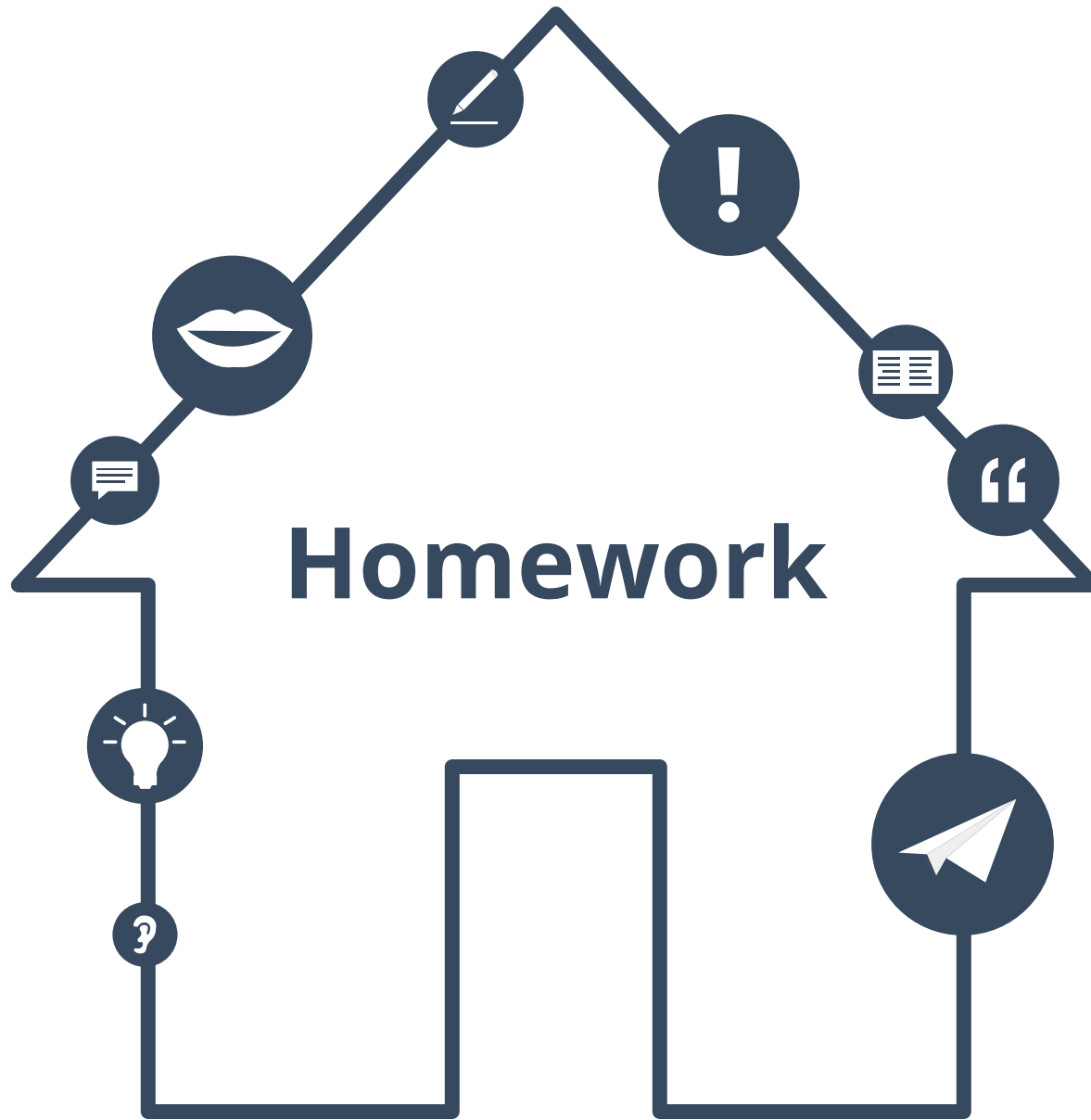


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Make a list

**There were a lot of new words in both poems.
Make a list of your favourite new words from each poem below.**

Desiderata

Spell of the Yukon



Over to you

Go on, see if you can write a poem in English. Make it about anything you like!





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