

Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning Poetry Pie by Roger McGough (Puffin)



1. Explore it

Read the poem below and think carefully about what this poem means to you:

Tomorrow Has Your Name On It

Tomorrow has your name on it
It's written up there in the sky
As you set out on a journey
in search of the How? and the
Why?

Oh the people you'll meet
The bright and the mad
The sights to be seen
The fun to be had.

Oh the dreams that you'll dream
The chances you'll take
The prizes you'll win
The hands that you'll shake.

But don't let your dreams
Get too big for their boots
don't hanker after the flimflam of
fame
If you hunger for mere celebrity
You'll be drawn like a moth to the
flame.

For having dreams is not enough;
You must get down and do your
stuff.
Take the ready with the rough.
Ride the punches, and my hunch
is
You'll succeed when life gets
tough.

And it will!

(That's also written in the sky
In a cobwebby corner of the
Milky Way
A squillion zillion miles away)

Bullies will want to bully you
For that's what bullies do
And you'll feel small and
miserable
(Don't worry, I would too).

Even Big Bad Wolves have
nightmares,
One of the reasons they howl at
the moon.
Being scared is Nature's
medicine.
Not nice, but it's over soon.

There'll be days you're made to
feel foolish
When your head seems made out
of wood
When you blush, mumble and
shuffle
Feel embarrassed and
misunderstood.

Things will get lost or stolen
Life doesn't turn out as you'd
planned
You get sick and then you get
better-
What's gone wrong? You can
understand.

Take your time.
Sing your own songs and laugh
out loud.
weep, if you need to
But away from the crowd.

Disappointments will ebb and
flow
Like the tide upon the shore
But an angry storm will quickly
go
And the sun rise up once more.

Oh the dreams that you'll dream
The promises you'll make
The friends that you find
Whom you'll never forsake.

Oh the dreams that you'll dream,
May the good ones come true.
Being young is an adventure
How I wish I were you.

Today is the tomorrow we
worried about
Yesterday and all last night.
and as days go, as days they do.
it seemed to go all right.

So dream your dreams and
journey
Be tomorrow foul or fine
so you can say at the end of it
'Amazing! Today was mine.'

Think back to what you read. What does the poem make you think about? How does it make you feel? What makes you think these things or feel this way? Why do you think Roger McGough has written this poem? What do you think it says to the reader?

Look at the poem again. What does the poem mean to you? Do any parts particularly resonate with your own experiences? Which ones? What words, phrases or parts make most impact on you? Why? Use a highlighter or pen to identify these.

2. Illustrate it

There are a lot of ideas contained in this poem, but what is the core feeling that you are left with after you read? If you were an illustrator, chosen to illustrate this collection, what would you draw to accompany this poem and why? Listen to Roger McGough read the poem aloud and think about the emotions, thoughts, images and pictures that come into your mind as you listen to the words: <https://vimeo.com/166486020>

When you have a clear picture in your head, take a pencil and a piece of paper – the back of an old letter or envelope will do if you don't have any paper to hand – and start to draw out your ideas.

3. Talk about it

- In the poem, Roger McGough talks about **the prizes you'll win, The hands that you'll** shake. What do you think have been the most major achievements of your life so far? What are you most proud of?
- He also talks about **What's gone wrong** – has anything in your life not turned out as you might have hoped? What have you learnt from these things? How have you moved forward?
- Think back to your own memories of being a small child. Looking back, what lessons have you learned from life that you would want to pass on as a message to someone younger to help them look to the future?

4. Imagine it

The refrain of the poem comes back again and again to **the dreams that you'll dream**. What dreams do you have for your future? You might think short term into your future at Secondary school – what subjects you think you'll enjoy, the kind of new friends you want to meet or clubs, hobbies or interests you'd like to take up. You might think longer term about what you'd like to do when you finish at school – do you have dreams or ideas about what you want to do as a job, or the kind of life you'd like to lead.

Write a note to your future self, sharing the dreams you have at your current age. Seal the envelope and write a 'Do not open until...' date on the front. When do you think would be a good date to come back to these and reflect on whether what you dreamt might happen really did?

5. Create it

Think about what this poem makes you think about your own life so far, or your dreams for the future and write a piece of reflective writing that either looks back on an important moment in your own life so far or looks forward to your future.

You can choose how to do this piece of writing, it could be through a poem, like you've seen here, or you could choose to do it through a diary entry, letter, a newspaper report or magazine article or in any other way you think best fits your purpose. When you have finished, share the writing with someone in your family, do they remember the incident you are recalling or, if you've written about the future, do they think this could happen to you?

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