

Name: .....

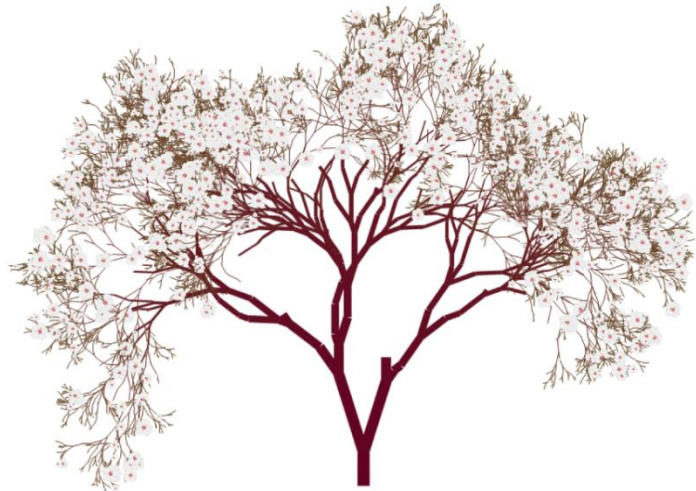
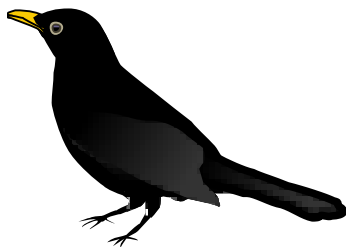
Date: .....

In poetry, repeated use of questions creates a dramatic effect. The effect is stronger when the poem also answers the question/s. Read the following two poems to see this technique used.

### The Blackbird of Belfast Lough

What little throat  
Has framed that note?  
What gold beak shot  
    It far away?  
A blackbird on  
His leafy throne  
Tossed it alone  
    Across the bay.

A traditional Irish poem (AD 800)



### What are heavy?

What are heavy? Sea-sand and sorrow;  
What are brief? Today and tomorrow;  
What are frail? Spring blossoms and youth;  
What are deep? The ocean and truth.

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Discuss with your partner. Which of the two poems do you prefer? Why?

.....

.....

Creating questions – create a question to generate the following statements.

Example:

The cows moo.     →     What do cows do?

1. The grass is green. ....
2. My book is long. ....
3. The birds are singing. ....
4. My coat is hanging up. ....

Using the questions you generated, provide an alternative surprising answer.

**Example:**

My coat is hanging up.  
Where is your coat? My coat is lying in a puddle in the garden.  
You can imagine the coat as a metaphor for your feelings to give depth to a simple question.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Christina Rossetti's poem makes use of abstract ideas to help her explore ideas with more depth. Here are some examples for you to answer as you wish.

What is happiness? .....

What is cool? .....

What is funny? .....

What is light? .....

Using some of the techniques you have learnt about, generate a poem. It doesn't have to rhyme, although rhyming couplets (AABBCC and so on) can work very well for this type of poem.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....