

KEY STAGE	AGE
KS1	5–7
KS2	7–11 ✓
KS3	11–14 ✓
KS4	14–16
KS5	16–18

AT A GLANCE

- HUMOROUS VERSE
- SOUND
- ALLITERATION
- RHYTHM
- RHYME

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POETRYCLASS: FRESH IDEAS FOR POETRY LEARNING FROM THE POETRY SOCIETY

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IMAGINARY WORDS

BY EVA SALZMAN

Give out the activity sheet. Ask the children to choose one of the invented words. Once they've done so, draw their attention to the poet's tip and ask them to write a definition for their chosen word. Tell them it should sound real enough to fool the class! For example:

'A sweeldorp is a square wheel used in countries where the people don't like to travel. It can be made of various kinds of woven roots and twigs. When not in use it is usually hung over the front door. A lazy person or someone who doesn't like to get up in the morning is sometimes called a sweeldorp.'

Firing the imagination

Now reverse the process and ask the students to make up their own words to describe actions or events – there are sentences with gaps to be filled in on the activity sheet.

Afterwards, ask them to invent words of their own (the activity sheet suggests that they do this in pairs). You could discuss with the students how

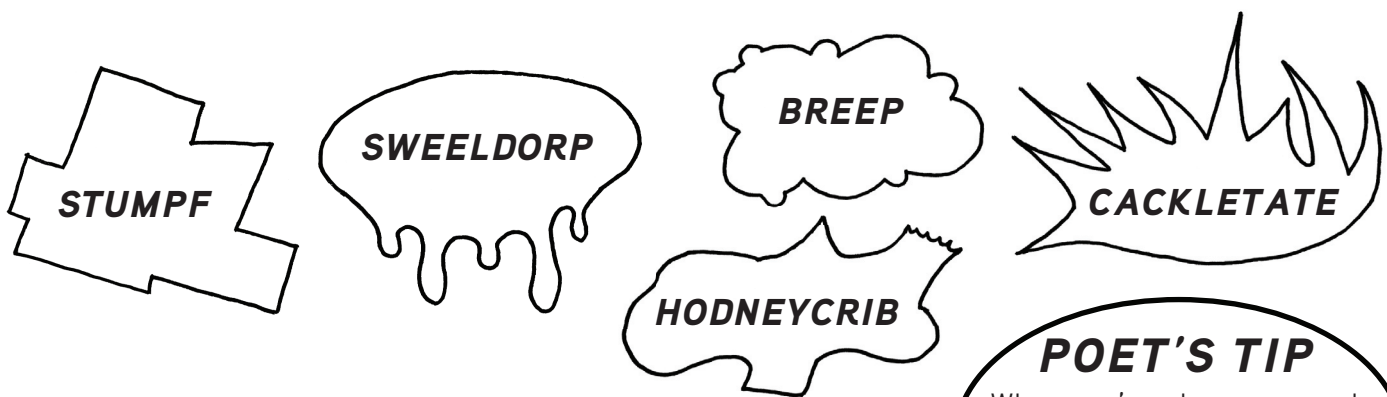
language changes and develops. Real words can start off as made-up words like 'galumph' and 'chortle' from *The Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll.

Making connections

To extend the activity, think of real words suggested by their made-up words. This can yield some great images, for example 'The wind wishelled through the trees on an autumn day' could become 'The wind washed through the trees' or 'The wind wished through the trees'. Use all these exercises to make poetic language more exciting and memorable.



IMAGINARY WORDS



- 1** Write a dictionary definition for one of the words above that will fool your friends.

POET'S TIP
When you've chosen a word, repeat it a few times, letting the sound suggest a meaning; what do you think it should mean?

- 2** Fill in the gaps with your own made-up words to describe these actions and events:

The wind through the trees on an autumn day.

..... : the sound of a fork falling to the floor.

The action of fingernails being drawn across a blackboard:

..... : the action of bird droppings falling onto the pavement.

The noise a football kicked hard against glass makes:

..... : the sound of boots going up the stairs.

- 3** Invent five new words of your own. Swap them with a friend and make up definitions for each other's words.

1 :
2 :
3 :
4 :
5 :

NAME: