

Weightlessness in Space Poem

Literacy Curriculum Mapping Years 3&4: 3

Introduction:

Imagining what weightlessness must feel like and writing poems on how our class and home environments would be affected by zero gravity.

Curriculum Mapping

Plan their writing by:

- Discussing and recording ideas

Draft and write by:

- Composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures
- Organising paragraphs around a theme
- In narratives, creating settings, characters and plot

Starter

Watch a video about weightlessness or zero gravity environments. For example, the "OK Go - Upside Down & Inside Out" video. This is not hosted on this site.

Main lesson:

Part 1: This part of the lesson may best be located in a larger space e.g. a school hall.

- Find a space on the floor. Imagine you are inside the cabin of a spaceship. Try floating in slow motion, slowing your movements to half speed then quarter speed.
- Work with a partner, sitting opposite each other with one as the leader. Copy your partner's actions in slow motion.
- Now imagine you are suddenly weightless in normal life. Imagine objects floating and flying around your classroom.

Part 2:

- Write your own poem about being weightless.
- Start with one verse describing a normal room inside a house or your classroom at school.
- Now write a second verse where objects start to move and float.
- Focus on your senses. What things start to go wrong? Do things return to normal? What has been changed or broken by the experience? How do you end up? What about the things in the room?

Ideas for Inclusion:

- Use *The Emotions Scale* to consider how the astronaut is feeling at this part of the mission and during different points of the countdown.

- Use *Weightlessness Widgit Symbols* to help learners decide on and identify describing words for the sensation of weightlessness.
- You can get a picture of a living room and a classroom and print twice. Download 2 sets of widgit symbols e.g. furniture to be cut out. One image can show the furniture as it would be in gravity and the other, the learners can stick the objects where they would be in zero gravity. This can be used to structure a poem as needed.

LGfL Extension ACTIVITY

- Write a 2nd part to the poem where an incident happens so the rhythm speeds up like the astronaut's heartbeat might.
- Write a second poem about the countdown from another person's perspective e.g. a family member; a mission controller or a journalist.