

Challenge 1: Paul Cookson

Poetry challenge

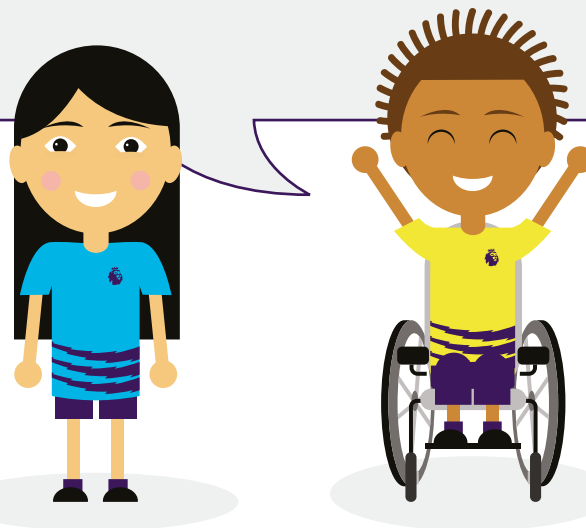


Firstly – I believe anyone can write a poem. It's not about how clever you are, how neat your handwriting is, how good your spelling is or even if you make words rhyme – it's about IDEAS!

I'm going to show you how to write some ideas down and then turn them into a poem to perform out loud – a performance poem.

All poems sound better out loud – here's one of mine to start us off, give it a go – read it aloud!

Paul Cookson



My sister is a superstar

She's the girl with the goals –
The Queen of the Green
The undisputed star in our tea
Pitch perfect on the pitch
She rules from box to box
We all dance to her tune
As she rolls and as she rocks
Flowing locks, wild and free –
like a hairy motor biker

My sister is a superstar – a supersonic striker
The Midas touch, the Belle with ball
The one who wins the hearts of us all
She puts the goal in golden
A jewel in our crown
She dazzles and she sparkles
Running rings around and round
Though they try as they might –
Defenders can't out-psyche her
My sister is a superstar – a super-scoring striker

Top of the shots – the world at her feet
The first name written down on the sheet
The reason for our season
The one who has it all
Every twist and every trick
With her foot and with the ball
Everybody loves her – there's nobody quite like her
My sister is a superstar – a super-scoring striker
My sister is a superstar – a supersonic striker
My sister is a superstar – a scintillating,
Supersonic, super-scoring... STRIKER!

Poem ©Paul Cookson, taken from Football 4 Every 1, Macmillan 2021

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**You can write poems about anything you like!
But here's an idea for one that's about football.**

Have you ever watched football with someone in your family that is football obsessed? Your dad? Your mum? Your brother or sister? Do they sometimes think it's a good idea to shout at the TV? Here is your chance to write a performance poem about all the things they do while they are watching the football. If nobody in your family watches football, make up a character!

Think about:

- Where they sit
- How they sit
- Do they have any superstitions? (Lucky pants? Yuck!)
- Food
- Drinks
- Snacks
- What do they do when their team scores? Or misses?

Use this template (or a piece of paper) to write your ideas down.

	When _____ watches the football:
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Does that look like a poem? Not really – more of a list – BUT! A list can become a poem.

Here's how: you can turn it into a football chant. All you need to do is pop your first line in between your ideas. Here's an example:

When **Dad** watches the football,
He never blinks at all,
When **Dad** watches the football,
He shouts if they miss a goal

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Your turn! And, of course, it doesn't need to rhyme. Use your list and let's make it a poem!



When _____ watches the football:

1.

When _____ watches the football:

2.

When _____ watches the football:

3.

When _____ watches the football:

4.

When _____ watches the football:

5.

Top tips:

Now say it aloud! First try doing it to a mirror, then make the rest of your house hear your brilliance!

For a really top performance make sure you re-draft it if you come up with new ideas to make it even better.

Make sure you use rhythm, try different volumes and tones, and move around!

Enjoy it!

