LITHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL
Kindness • Integrity • Tenacity

LIVO CATCH-UP 10
Poetry Focus

EXPLORE
ANALYSE
THINK
DISCUSS
CONNECT

You have missed some lessons. Don't worry – this will give you the essential knowledge you need to join back in.

- ☑ Different voices
- ☑ Different times
- ☑ Important ideas

READ
ANALYSE
EVALUATE
LINK IDEAS
WRITE

Dusting the Phone
by Jackie Kay

1 WHAT IS IT?



"Dusting the Phone" is a modern poem written by **Jackie Kay**.

It explores memory, loss and the lasting impact of a loved one.

2 WHAT IS THE POEM ABOUT?



The poem is about a speaker who keeps their late mother's phone.

It explores how objects can hold memories and how grief can make it difficult to let go.

3 KEY THEMES

- GRIEF AND LOSS
- MEMORY AND LOVE
- HOLDING ON AND LETTING GO
- FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

4 KEY LANGUAGE AND STRUCTURE



- Everyday, conversational language.
- Lists to show memories and details.
- Repetition to show the speaker's emotions.
- Imagery linked to the phone to symbolise connection and remembrance.

5 CONTEXT



Jackie Kay is a Scottish poet who often writes about identity, family and belonging. The poem reflects modern life and how technology can keep us connected to people, even after they have died.

Cousin Kate
by Christina Rossetti

1 WHAT IS IT?



"Cousin Kate" is a poem written by Christina Rossetti.

It is a narrative poem that explores love, choice and the consequences of decisions.

2 WHAT IS THE POEM ABOUT?



The poem is about a young woman named Cousin Kate who reflects on a relationship and the choices she has made.

It explores how these choices affect her and the people around her.

3 KEY THEMES

- LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS
- CHOICE AND CONSEQUENCES
- REGRET AND SADNESS
- WOMEN AND SOCIETY

4 KEY LANGUAGE AND STRUCTURE



- Narrative form – tells a story.
- Vivid imagery, especially nature.
- Repetition to show emotion.
- Creates a haunting and melancholic atmosphere.

5 CONTEXT



Christina Rossetti was a Victorian poet. Her poetry often explores love, women's roles in society, morality and religion. In the Victorian era, women had fewer choices and were expected to follow strict social rules.

Origin Story
by Caleb Femi

1 WHAT IS IT?



"Origin Story" is a modern poem written by Caleb Femi.

It explores identity, family, heritage and what it means to grow up.

2 WHAT IS THE POEM ABOUT?



The poem is about the poet's family background and the influences that shape who he is.

It celebrates working-class identity and the strength and resilience of family.

3 KEY THEMES

- IDENTITY AND HERITAGE
- FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
- RESILIENCE AND PRIDE
- CLASS AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

4 KEY LANGUAGE AND STRUCTURE



- Vivid imagery and sensory detail.
- Lists and repetition to show pride and strength.
- Informal, conversational tone.
- Contrasts past and present.

5 CONTEXT



Caleb Femi is a contemporary British poet. His work often explores Black identity, family, community and the realities of urban life. The poem reflects pride in his roots and the influence of his family and environment.

6 YOUR CATCH-UP 10

Answer these without looking back.

1. Who wrote "Dusting the Phone" and what is it about?
2. Give two key themes from "Dusting the Phone".
3. What object is important in the poem and what does it represent?
4. Who wrote "Cousin Kate" and when was she writing?
5. Give two key themes from "Cousin Kate".
6. What type of poem is "Cousin Kate"?
7. Who wrote "Origin Story" and what is it about?
8. Give two key themes from "Origin Story".
9. How does Femi use language to create pride in the poem?
10. What do these three poems have in common? Give one similarity and one difference.

7 KEY VOCABULARY

Narrative	a poem that tells a story
Identity	a sense of who you are
Heritage	your family's history and culture
Resilience	the ability to recover from difficulty
Symbolism	using an object or idea to represent something else
Imagery	descriptive language that creates a picture
Repetition	repeating a word or phrase for effect
Tone	the poet's attitude towards the subject
Structure	how the poem is organised (e.g. stanzas, line length, narrative form)
Context	the background (historical, social or cultural) in which a poem was written

8 FINAL CHECK

I now know:

- ☐ what each poem is about
- ☐ who each poet is
- ☐ the key themes in each poem
- ☐ key language and structure features
- ☐ the historical and social context
- ☐ how the poets present important ideas
- ☐ how to compare the poems
- ☐ how to plan and write a comparative paragraph
- ☐ and I feel ready to rejoin the lesson!

NOW I'M READY TO REJOIN THE LESSON!