

# LESSON THREE

## WRITING YOUR OWN PROTEST SONG

### ABOUT THIS LESSON

In this lesson students will write their own protest lyrics guided by video clips of rapper and poet Kate Tempest.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To find out how rapper Kate Tempest writes protest songs.
- To understand what it is like to be affected by the issue you have chosen.
- To develop lyrics for a new protest song using inventive language.

#### RESOURCES

- PowerPoint presentation:  
*Writing your own protest song*
- Video clips of Kate Tempest (linked to from PowerPoint)
- Worksheet 1 – *Character cut-out* (one for each writer or group of writers)
- Worksheet 2 – *Songwriting template* (for each writer or group of writers)
- Lined A4 paper or exercise books

#### OPTIONAL RESOURCES

- *Full Score* (winning song, Amnesty 2012 competition)
- *Make Some Noise* – Radio 1 documentary (3 minutes)

#### SET-UP

If in Lesson two students decided to write their songs with a partner or in a small group, they should be seated with these students at the start of the lesson. As students will be asked to share their work with other students, they should sit at tables of four to six.



### STARTER 10 MINUTES

#### MEET KATE TEMPEST

- Share lesson objectives (slide 2).
- Remind the class that in the last lesson they chose a topic to write a song about. If they are going to write with partners, they should be sitting together.
- Explain that the lesson will be guided via video clips from Kate Tempest.

Kate is a 25 year old poet and rapper from South London. She plays at festivals across the UK including Glastonbury and Latitude. She performs at spoken word events, as well as putting her songs to music with her group Sounds of Rum; she has appeared on Radio 1 and put on live performances on Radio 6. In 2013 she was awarded the Ted Hughes poetry prize.

- Show slide 3. Watch Kate Tempest's introduction to the lesson and see her performing a song on women's rights she wrote for Amnesty International's 50th anniversary (4 mins). When the video stops go to the next slide.
- Listen to Kate talk about the techniques she uses to write a protest song (1 min). When the video stops go to the next slide.

#### Resources

- PowerPoint slides 1-6

'Everybody has a voice,  
everybody has the ability  
to express themselves and  
everybody has something  
really powerful to say.'

**Kate Tempest**





## MAIN 45 MINUTES

### 1 CHARACTER CUT-OUT (10 minutes)

- Give each pair a copy of worksheets 1 and 2. For less able or younger students give them the copy of worksheet 2 with prompts.
- Show slide 7 and listen to Kate's instructions. After the video the PowerPoint will automatically advance to slide 9 where the instructions are recapped.

#### Resources

- PowerPoint slides 7-9
- Worksheet 1: *Character cut-out*
- Worksheet 2: *Songwriting template*

### 2 CREATING THE SONG (10 minutes)

- Show slide 10. Listen to Kate's instructions on how to use the cut-out to fill out Box 1 of the songwriting template: *Describe where you are*. On slide 12 the instructions are recapped.
- From slide 12, listen to Kate's instructions, on how to use the cut-out to fill out Box 2 of the songwriting template: *How do you feel?* On slide 14 the instructions are recapped.
- From slide 14, listen to Kate's instructions on how to use the cut-out to fill out Box 3 of the songwriting template: *Describe what you want*. On slide 16 the instructions are recapped.

#### Resources

- PowerPoint slides 10-16

### 3 WRITING IT OUT (25 minutes)

- Show slide 17. Students watch Kate's final instructions on how to turn their worksheet into a song. These are summarised on slide 18. Students should then draft their song on A4 paper or in their exercise books.

#### Resources

- PowerPoint slides 17-18
- Lined A4 paper or exercise books



## PLENARY 5 MINUTES

- Select two students to read out their lyrics to class.
- Ask the class to identify the human rights issues represented in the lyrics, and any favourite lines.

#### Resources

- PowerPoint slide 19

### EXTENSION/HOMEWORK

- Ask students to perfect their lyrics.
- Work with your students to set the lyrics to music or develop a spoken word performance to record.
- Plan an event and perform the songs. Why not make it an Amnesty fundraiser?

Below: Kate Tempest at Paddington Academy



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