

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Watch and join in with a poem.

- Watch Wilf Merttens perform his poem and try to join in, now that you know it so well. *You should have studied it earlier this week. (Days 1&4)*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGXCSuIVamo>
- Which part of the poem do you find it easiest to speak out loud? Which are the trickiest parts?

2. Plan and write a poem

- Use the [Poem Planner](#) to help you think of ideas for a new version of the poem. Read the prompts and note your ideas down.
- Write your poem out.

3. Practise a performance

- Practise performing your new poem. Think about the speed that you read, the rhythm of your poem, your expression and any actions.

[Well done. Now share your performance with somebody else. What do they notice and like best about your poem?](#)

Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Highlight the lines in your poem that you think could best have a matching picture and then make your illustrations.
- Record your performance of your poem and share it with somebody else.

What do you want to be?

What do you want to *be*?

What do *you* want to be?

What do you want to be?

Hey listen kid, you don't have to tell me—

I'm just here to read some poetry.

You can leave now if you want.

You're completely free, you see.

But, before you go, let me tell you

I'm not here to tell you about birds and bees
and trees

and bananas and farmers and poetry things.

This poem is a question,

and I'm asking what you dream and feel and things.

You see, maybe you want to be famous.

Maybe you want to be an astronaut and explore Uranus.

Maybe you want to be the craziest stunt lady Hollywood's ever seen.

Maybe you want to buy some flashy mansion
and spend all your time keeping it clean.

Maybe you're a dancer and Bollywood's more your scene.

Maybe you're a natural,

Maybe you're going to have work hard at it.

Maybe you're a punk singer and you want to smash...it...up.

Maybe you like nice stuff.

Maybe to get it you're going to act all tough.

Maybe you're going to be sweet.

Maybe you're going to meet and greet.

Maybe you just want to help people.

Or maybe you want to be a success, like prove that you're the best.

Maybe you want to be a celebrity, or an important politician,

shake the hands of the mayor.
Then again, maybe you just don't care.
Maybe you're in it for the money.
Now *that's* a sweet honey.
People don't find anything funny when they're racing to be rich.
Maybe you want to be surrounded by iPhones and quick fixes,
Maybe your heart tremors and twitches round diamond rings and bling.
Maybe you want to see all the precious things that eBay can bring,
Or wear so many jewels you look like a King.
Maybe you just want to sing in the shower
and that's what makes you feel free.
Maybe all you need is the moon and a tree to feel happy.
Maybe you're a natural.
Maybe you're a doctor, a tinker, a tailor, an architect of bad
behaviour.
You could be a soldier or a spy.
You could be the kind of guy who wonders why
the world is just as it is
Or how the plane can stay in the sky.
Maybe you're an expert at stopping a baby crying.
Maybe you'll be found frying a rich man's breakfast
in a gourmet restaurant.
Maybe you're a killer chef or an amazing painter.
You don't have to know now;
you can find out later what it is you really want to be.
Because maybe you just want to see the world.
Maybe you want to travel around and live out of a backpack.
Maybe you want to be a goth, wearing nothing but black
'cos maybe being blue just ain't you.
Maybe you just have to find out what's true and what's a lie in the
newspaper.
Maybe you'd make a kiss-ass journalist.
Then again maybe all that writing would turn you mentalist.

Maybe you want to make your own zombie movies,
spray ketchup all over your mate's face for fake blood,
Maybe you want to be a dirt biker all covered in mud,
or a rescue woman saving people in a flood.
Maybe you want to be a boxer, landing punches with a thud.
Maybe you want to do very little,
live life quietly up a mountain someplace,
stay up all night staring into space.
Maybe you want to raise a family.
Maybe you want to devote your life to a god.
Maybe you want to live in a caravan on the sea, serving cod and
chips.
Maybe you'll be eternally swell if you can just kiss a sweet pair of lips

Whatever your dream, I'm just here to remind you that you can be
whatever you want to be and you can have *anything*, you see.
Now if you're like me you're going to want it all for free.
But like me and like lots of other people like me,
in the end you're going to see
that if you want to be what you want to be
then you are going to have believe
and work real hard.
Unless you just want to be a nobody, which is real easy.
But don't worry, 'cos this crazy game is not a race,
and it's not up to me or school or TV to tell you your place.
We don't know your dream, or even what you really mean
when you say what you want to be.
It's up to you.
You've got to decide for yourself you see.
Now, tell me - what do you want to be?

Wilf Merttens

Poem Planner

Checklist <i>In my poem I need to...</i>	<i>My ideas and plans</i>
Compose an intro line like <i>What do YOU want to be?</i>	
<div style="display: flex;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold; padding-right: 5px;">Section 1</div> <div> <p>Compose 6 high quality <i>Maybe you...</i> lines, detailing the jobs or things someone might want to do</p> <p>Alliterate a profession and its descriptive adjective in two of the lines (<i>Maybe you want to be an <u>audacious</u> actor, Maybe you want total control of a Massey Fergusson tractor</i>)</p> <p>Consider including superheroes, impressive and not so impressive: Wonder Woman...but also Odd Socks Matching Up Woman, etc.</p> <p>Rhyme at least two pairs of your 3 pairs of lines <i>Maybe you want to reach up, up and out to the stars</i> <i>Or maybe you want to lovingly smooth the dents out of vintage cars</i></p> </div> </div>	

Section 2	<p>Compose a line like, <i>But whatever you do, you've got to dream big, because life without dreams is...</i></p> <p>Write 2 powerful lines describing life without dreams using metaphors (<i>...a broken bottle, its precious contents spilt upon the step</i>)</p>	
Section 3	<p><i>Some people say...</i></p> <p>Use the modal verbs of obligation in sentences saying what parents or teachers might tell someone they had to do:</p> <p>You should... You ought to... You must...</p> <p><i>But don't worry about what others tell you to do:</i></p> <p>Use the modal verbs of ability</p> <p>Instead, You can You could You might</p>	
	<p>Compose an outro line like, <i>Remember you're free to choose - what do YOU want to be?</i></p>	

A New Poem

Write your poem here.



A large rectangular area for writing a poem. The area is enclosed in a decorative border with a yellow and black zigzag pattern. Inside the border, there are 20 horizontal lines for writing, providing a structured space for the student's poem.

