Overview

Learning objective
• To explore sensory description in poetry.

Learning outcome
• To create a concrete poem on the theme of Down the Chocolate River.

Book reference
• Chapter 18: Down the Chocolate River.

Cross-curricular link
• Literacy, Drama, Art.

Resources
• Chairs, pictures showing examples of rowing boats.

Starter

• Arrange the chairs in the room to form a rowing boat shape. The children all sit in the boat and pretend to row. Ask the students to imagine that they are sailing down the chocolate river in Willy Wonka's factory, passing a huge fudge mountain, a green valley, and other places. Ask the students to imagine: What can you see? What can you hear? Smell? Taste? Touch? What is the rowing boat made of? What places are you passing?

• At intervals, say “Freeze rowing!” at which the children must freeze in their positions. Ask individuals to share what they can see, hear, smell, taste and touch down the chocolate river.
Main teaching activity

The children return to their seats.
- Read chapter 18 to the class.
- The children draw pictures of the ideas they had during the starter activity.

- In pairs, the children use thesauri to find words to describe their sensory experience down the chocolate river and add these words to the picture.

Group or independent activity

- The children draw a boat shape in their books.
- Writing inside the boat shape, children draft a poem about their own imaginative experience down the chocolate river. It is structured like this:

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Down the chocolate river, I see ........................................................
Down the chocolate river, I hear ......................................................
Down the chocolate river, I hear ......................................................
Down the chocolate river, I touch ....................................................
Down the chocolate river, I taste ......................................................
Down the chocolate river, I feel .....................................................
Down the chocolate river, life is .......................................................
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- The children can use similes, metaphors and personification.
- The shape of the picture can determine the shape and content of the poem. For example, the body of the boat may have poetry with long line lengths but the mast and oars may have poetry with shorter line lengths.
**Plenary**

- The children cut out a piece of paper in the shape of a boat and write the poem on it neatly.
- The children read their poems aloud and/or show how the layout and words of the poem echoes the shape of the boat.
- The children comment upon their peers’ use of sensory description and other success criteria.

**Other activities**

- Create a display showing the boat-shaped poems sailing down a chocolate river picture.
- Make recordings of the poems being read aloud to sound effects (for example: oars rowing through water, liquid chocolate bubbling, etc).
- Hold a performance poetry race: perform the poem in the time it takes for a boat to sail down a chocolate river (using a basin of water that has been dyed brown using food colouring, with a paper boat).
- The children experiment with other forms of concrete poetry, such as a poem about chocolate in the shape of a chocolate bar, a poem about a lollipop in the shape of a lollipop, a poem about a character in the shape of the character, a machine in Willy Wonka’s factory, a great glass elevator...