



Canterbury Festival Schools' Poetry Competition Teaching Resources for Primary Schools

About

The annual county-wide search for tomorrow's famous poets has begun!

Canterbury Festival's poetry competition is open all pupils within Kent schools, with age categories 5-8 years, 9-11 years, 12-15 years and 16-18 years. The deadline for entries is **Friday 21 July**.

Entries are shortlisted by a panel of judges, with the top entries printed in an anthology. The competition culminates in a celebration event on **Friday October 4th** with readings from our published poets and prizes for the winners of each category. This event precedes the adult Poet of the Year awards evening.

We look forward to receiving your school's entries!

Each entry must include the following details:-

Teacher's Name:

Student's Name:

School Name:

School Address:

Age on 4th October 2019:

Entries must be sent in the post to:

Charlotte Chapman
Canterbury Festival
8 Orange Street
Canterbury KENT CT1 2JA

This Year's Theme

The theme of the 2019 Canterbury Festival School's Poetry Competition is **MOON VOYAGE** – inspired by the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing.

We hope this theme will be widely interpreted by applicants, using this resource as starting point to create their own original and imaginative poems.

The resource uses varied creative-writing techniques to enable access into poetry writing for all abilities, being highly visual and less reliant on individual academic levels for success.

Cut-Ups

Pupils will need the following:

- Backing card (ideally A3 but A4 can be used). Dark blue or black, silver/gold metallic card is more striking for space theme.
- Old newspapers, magazines, large font texts (newspaper headline font size is ideal)
- **Apollo themed word list** (see Appendix for printable version)
- Scissors, glue sticks

Devised by poet Brion Gysin (1916-1986) **Cut-Ups** uses source material to create new poetry from existing words, rearranged into a new order.

Old newspapers and magazine headlines are the source, supplemented by the **Apollo themed word list** from which the students select words and phrases to rearrange on A3 or A4 backing card.

Ensure the students do not stick their words down onto card until they have rearranged their words/phrases into their final poem. Part of the fun is seeing the alternative poems they can create by rearranging their selection in a different order.

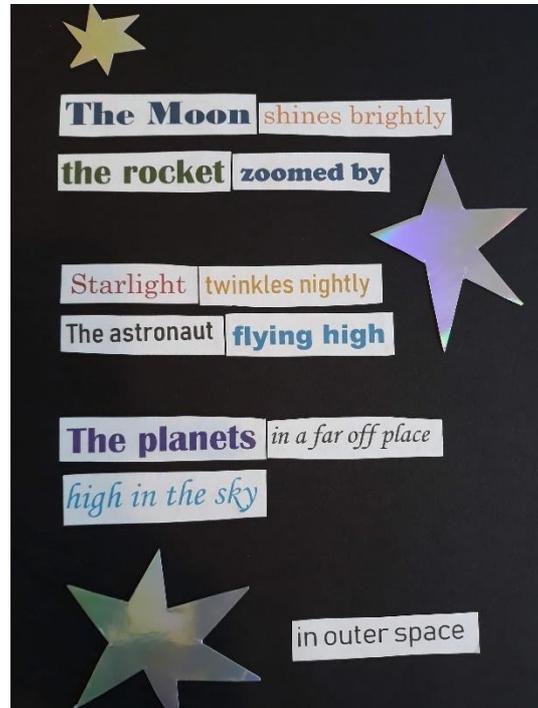
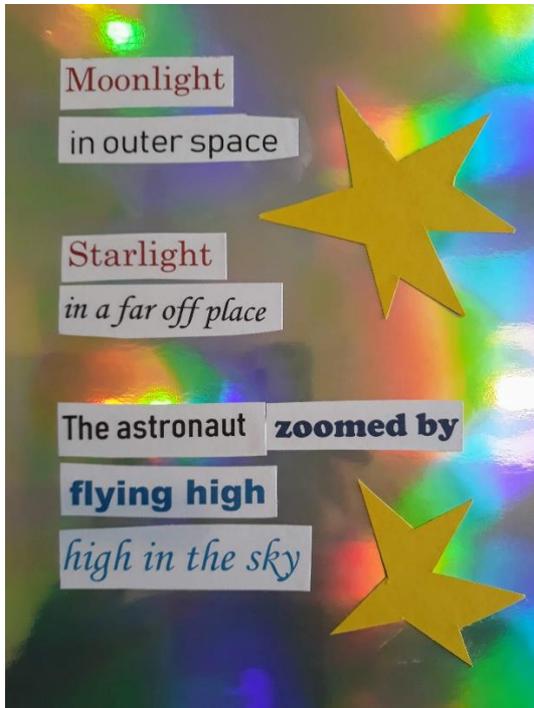


Early readers in younger year groups will only need to use the **Apollo themed word list** as source material. Teachers can create their own **Moon Voyage** word list to add to the resource.

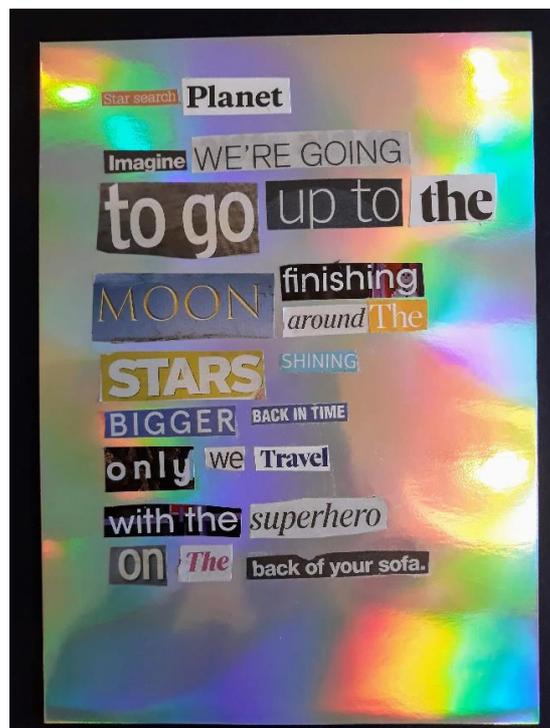
It is helpful for younger pupils to have the word list already cut into strips (as in image above) and placed in a lucky-dip bowl on their table to choose their selection.

Examples of Cut-Ups

For younger year groups using **Apollo themed word list** only:



Cut-Ups using only newspapers and magazines:



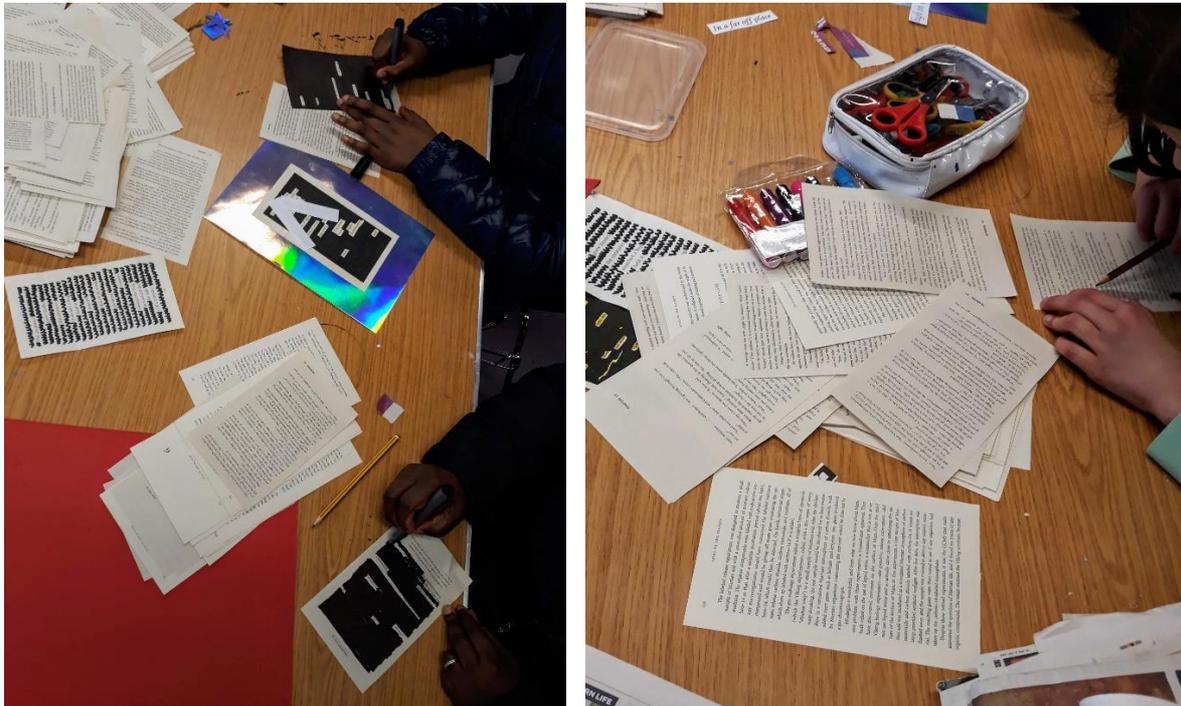
Blackout Poetry

Pupils will need the following:

- Pages from secondhand books and paperbacks as source material. Biographies of the Apollo astronauts for younger readers, space stories and related texts are readily available cheaply online. Charity shops are another good source. Two paperbacks would cover a class of 30.
- Pencils, rubbers and chisel-tipped black marker pens.

Pupils select a page from available books and using a pencil to circle random words on the page, they build new meaning from seemingly unconnected words.

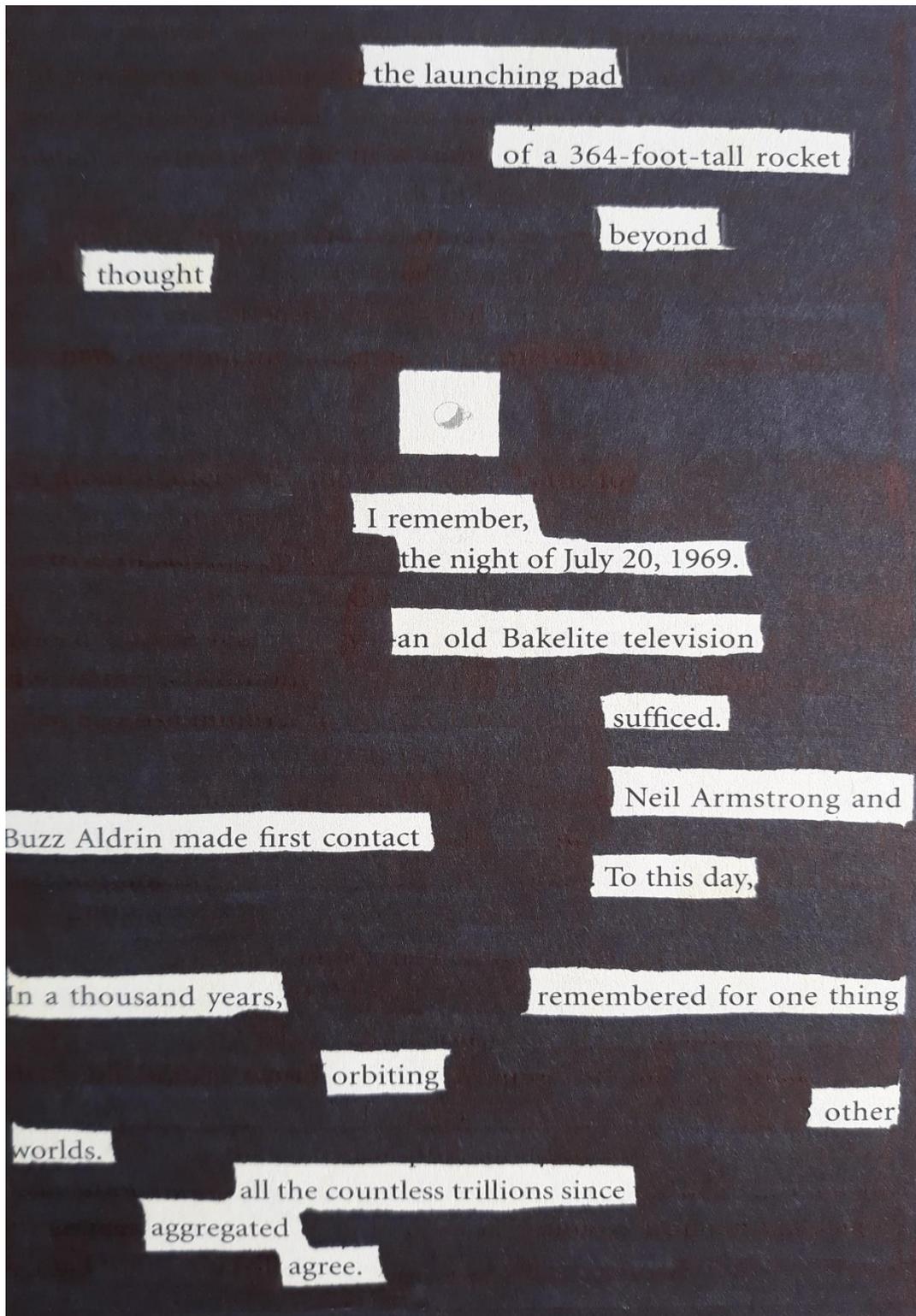
Once the words and phrases have been selected, the remaining unwanted text is 'blacked out' with the marker pen.



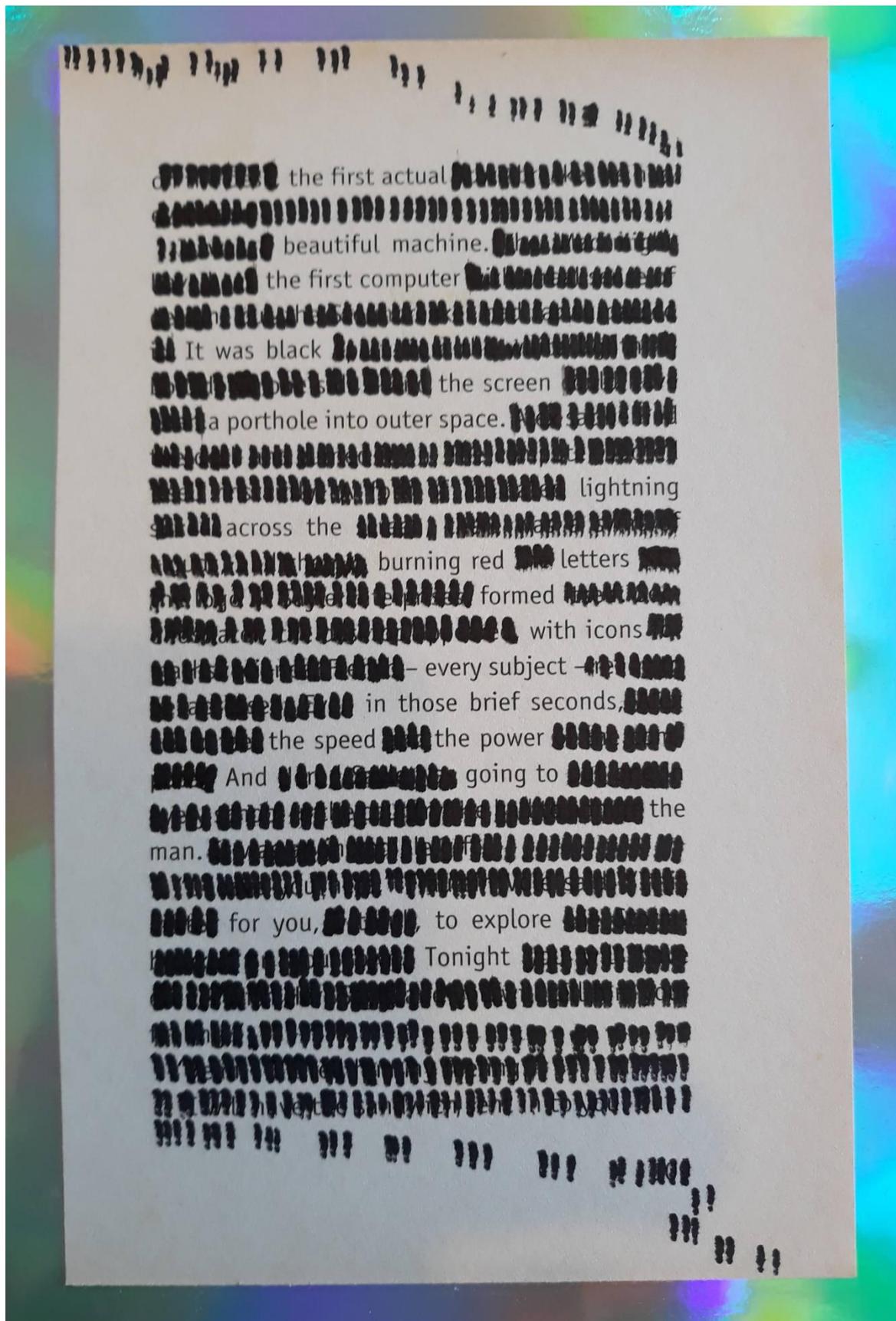
The text left on the page often has a surreal quality and the more pupils are encouraged to experiment, rather than imposing what they think 'makes sense' - the better!

It is best to recommend using a pencil first to underline the words and phrases the student wants to use, as going straight in with the marker pen often results in losing a word you may have wanted to keep as you move down the text. It also creates a path down the page, reading left to right from top to bottom, that is needed for the final poem.

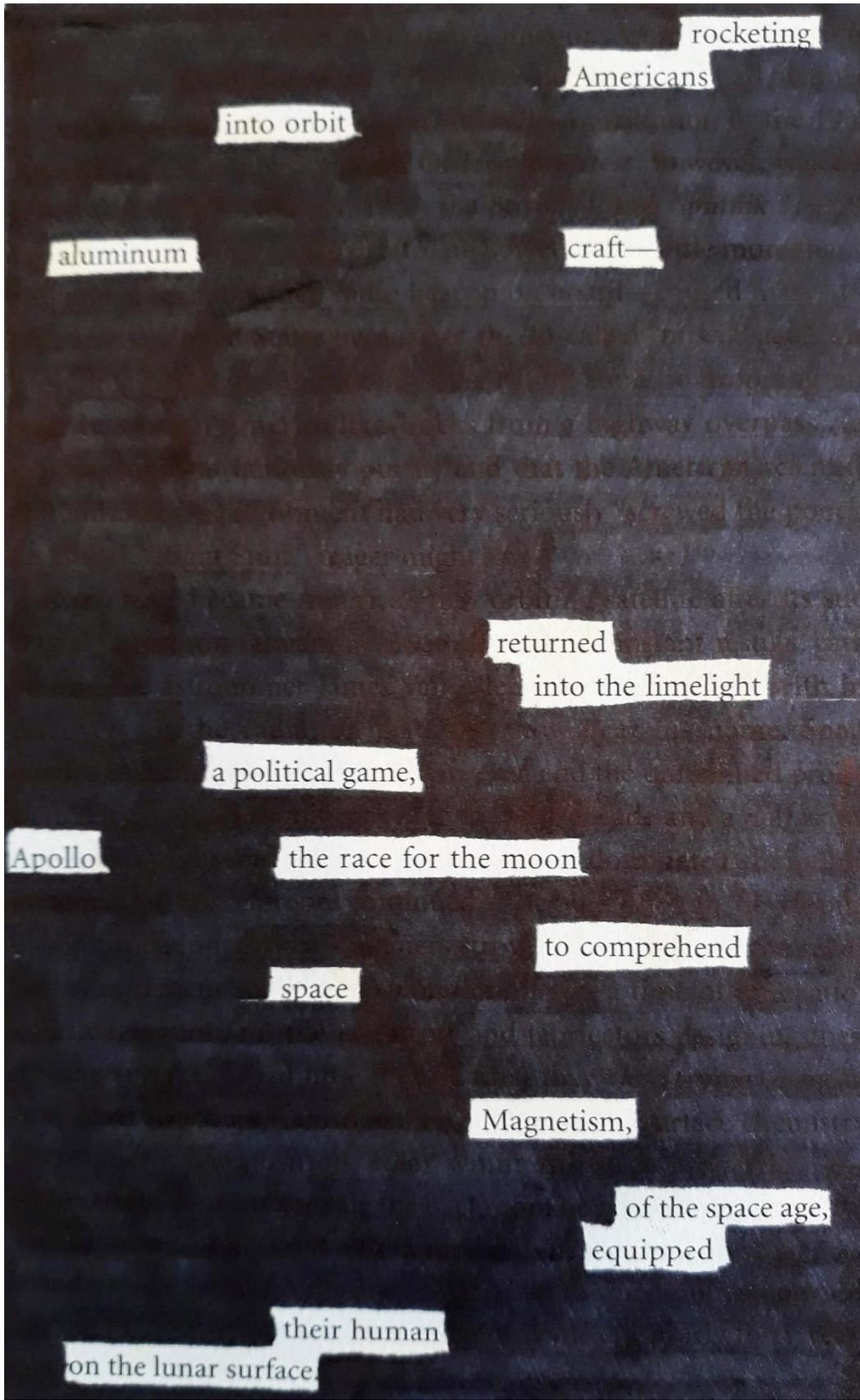
Apollo Themed Blackout Poetry Examples



Apollo Themed Blackout Poetry Examples



Apollo Themed Blackout Poetry Examples



Acrostic Space Poetry

Ask pupils to create an acrostic poem for the Apollo moon landing, or a journey into outer space.

For example:

A man to the moon,
Propelled into space,
Orbiting the earth,
Lighting the sky,
Lifting our dreams,
Outer space our playground.

Haiku Space Poetry

“Haiku” is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. Haiku poems consist of three lines. The first and last line consist of five syllables, the middle line has seven syllables. A haiku does not have to rhyme.

Space Haikus by Gert Strydom

Satellite observe
mist cloud unexpectedly
reactor flaming.

Big eye satellite
look at our activities
on the sandy beach.

Big space telescope
tuned fine on solar system
looks for small angels.

NASA Research Scientist Barbara Cohen’s Haiku

Apollo brought us
History in their gloved hands
Tiny rocky clocks

Ask pupils to try their own space themed Haikus.

APPENDIX

Space Themed Playlist

If your pupils would like to work while listening to an Apollo themed playlist, please click on link here:

<https://open.spotify.com/user/nickreynolds/playlist/0z35DaJqI3YB9Fz9vkdIzz?si=eRU9XBvuQ-eB0eLoJ9jN5w>

Artists on the playlist include David Bowie and Brian Eno, both users of the Cut-Ups technique to write their lyrics!

Apollo themed word list

The final page of this resource is the **Apollo themed word list** for you to print – either as a supplement to the newspaper Cut-ups exercise, or without for the younger/early reader poets.

We look forward to receiving your entries and hope you can find some useful exercises in this resource to help your budding young poets!



Resource devised by
Steph Avery-Reynolds at Sailor Made Arts
For Canterbury Festival Schools' Poetry Competition 2019



[sailormadearts](https://www.instagram.com/sailormadearts)

LANDING **landing** landing high
landing APOLLO Apollo Apollo
Apollo Apollo APOLLO **Apollo**
Rocket rocket **ROCKET** rocket
rocket star **star** **STAR** Star **star**
Orbit **ORBIT** orbit **orbit** **orbit**
orbit **astronauts** fly **ASTRONAUTS**
sky astronauts sky **astronauts**
astronauts flying **FLYING** high
high flight fly fly **sky** **Moon** fly
moon moon **moon** **MOON** moon
Space **space** **outer** **space** SPACE
space **SPACE** outer space **space**
Mission **mission** mission sky **high**
mission **Earth** **planet** planet fly
earth earth **planet** module **module**
module dust **module** **dust** **dust**
module **dust** **lunar** **lunar** lunar sky