

Changing identities: Poetry Takeover

Guidelines for teachers

Firstly, thank you for participating in the **History Festival Poetry Takeover**! We hope your students will be inspired by the collections that the History Trust values and supports! Our goal is to encourage young people to engage with objects, think creatively, connect it to the theme *Changing Identities*, and then compose a poem of any kind – slam, haiku, stanza etc

- If your students are new to the museum/gallery, walk them through the whole place quickly before you start the object hunt.
- Remind students there is no eating or drinking in the museum/gallery, and to be aware that other visitors may be using the space at the same time.
- Whispering voices are valued.
- Once students are starting their hunt, encourage them to wander into every part of the museum/gallery. Only once they have had a look right through the place should they start to think about the object that inspires them the most.
- They have plenty of time, so now encourage them to go slow and let their imaginations wander – they have up to an hour!
- When students are wandering, encourage them to think in broad and even outrageous terms about the object. Pose alternative ideas to just the history of the object. They could also think about the object's use, its journey, its relevance to today, any of its previous owners, how it got to Australia, why it is in a museum, something it reminds them of, how it was made etc.
- Encourage your students to think creatively. There is no wrong answer.
- Let the choice of object drive the type of poem the student selects.
- If students have not yet found an object that appeals to them after 25-30 minutes, encourage and support them to make a decision.
- Before you leave, take photos of the objects so students will have a record.
- Allow time back in the classroom for students to write their poems.

Many thanks and feedback welcome

Madelena and Karen

History Trust of South Australia

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