

LITERACY - POEMS

A CARIBBEAN DOZEN

Famous Caribbean Poets

1. Louise Bennett-Coverley
 - Known as “Miss Lou,” she celebrated Jamaican culture and language in her poems.
2. Nalo Hopkinson
 - A writer and poet whose works often reflect her Caribbean heritage and stories.
3. Kamau Brathwaite
 - His poems focus on the history and culture of the Caribbean Islands.

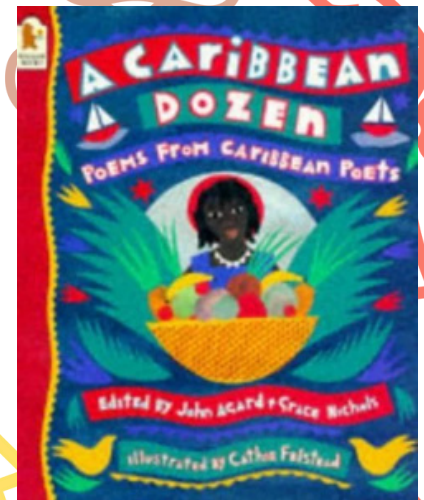


Key Vocabulary

- **Poem** – A form of writing that uses rhythm and imagery.
- **Rhyme** – Words that sound the same at the end (e.g., tree, sea).
- **Rhythm** – The beat or pattern of a poem.
- **Verse** – A single line in a poem.
- **Stanza** – A group of lines in a poem.
- **Imagery** – Descriptive language that paints a picture.
- **Metaphor** – A comparison without ‘like’ or ‘as’ (e.g., “The sky is a blanket”).
- **Simile** – A comparison using ‘like’ or ‘as’ (e.g., “The sky is like a blanket”).
- **Personification** – Giving human traits to non-human things.
- **Alliteration** – Repeating the same sound at the start of words.

Top Ten Facts

1. The Caribbean is made up of many islands with unique cultures.
2. Caribbean poems often focus on nature, music, and family.
3. Poets use rhythm and rhyme to make poetry engaging.
4. Free verse poetry does not follow a set rhyme or rhythm.
5. Many Caribbean poets write in dialect to reflect their culture.
6. Music and poetry are closely linked in Caribbean traditions.
7. Repetition helps to make poems more memorable.
8. Caribbean poems often describe traditional foods and festivals.
9. Poetry can express strong emotions and tell personal stories.
10. Reading and writing poetry improves vocabulary and creativity.



Key Questions & Answers

1. **What is the Caribbean?** – A region of islands in the Caribbean Sea, known for its warm climate and culture.
2. **What themes are common in Caribbean poetry?** – Nature, culture, music, family, emotions, and traditions.
3. **How do poets use imagery?** – By describing sights, sounds, smells, and feelings to create vivid pictures.
4. **What is the difference between free verse and rhyming poetry?** – Free verse has no set rhyme or rhythm, while rhyming poetry follows patterns.
5. **How do rhythm and rhyme affect a poem?** – They create a musical quality and make poems easier to remember.
6. **What emotions do poems express?** – Joy, nostalgia, adventure, homesickness, and excitement.
7. **Why are Caribbean foods mentioned in poetry?** – To reflect culture, traditions, and daily life.
8. **What role does music play in Caribbean poetry?** – Influences the rhythm and themes, with styles like reggae and calypso.
9. **Why do poets use repetition?** – To emphasise ideas and make poems more engaging.
10. **What is an autobiography in poetry?** – A poem that tells personal life experiences.