

KS2 *Laughter is an Egg* by John Agard

Activity 1: Language Detectives

What strategies can you use to discover the meaning of words?

Fill in the grid with your ideas.

boast

<p>Familiar friends: does the word sound like any others?</p>	<p>In context: how is the word used in a sentence/ phrase?</p>
<p>What word class does it belong to? (noun, verb, adjective, adverb etc...)</p>	<p>Use a dictionary to look up the definition (meaning):</p>
<p>Now use a thesaurus to find synonyms – words that have the same/a similar meaning – for 'boast':</p>	
<p>Finally, use the word in a sentence:</p>	



Activity 3: Poetic Toolkit

Match the tool with its meaning.

rhyme

To describe something as something else.

alliteration

Repeat a word or phrase.

personification

Words starting with the same sound or letter.

metaphor

Giving human qualities to something that isn't human.

repetition

Words with similar sounds at the end.



Challenge: Can you give an example of some of these poetic tools? Create your own or use examples from Agard's poem.

Rhyme: _____

Alliteration: _____

Metaphor: _____



Activity 4: Annotate

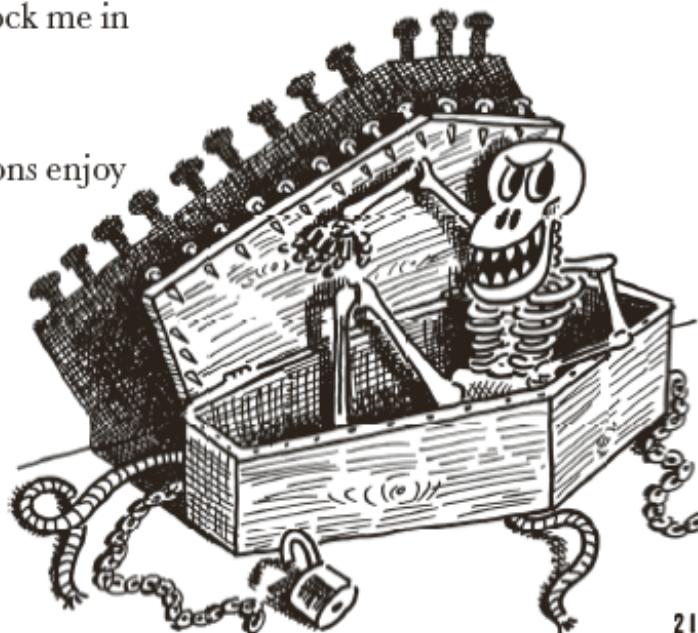
Laughter's Boast

Not a box in the world
Not a tin in the world
can lock me in
said Laughter with a grin

Not a rope can tie me
Not a chain can bind me
just try to lock me in
said Laughter with a grin

Show me the peg to pin me
Show me the bolt to bar me
Show me the cage to confine me
just try to lock me in

Fat or thin
even skeletons enjoy
a grin



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rhyme	personification	repetition
alliteration	metaphor	imagery



Activity 5: Imagery and meaning



1. What are these items used for?



2. What do you think Agard's use of imagery is telling us about laughter?

3. What is laughter **boasting** about?



Activity 6: Writing your own poem

1. Select one of the nouns below.
2. Personify it – imagine it has human-like characteristics and behaviours.
3. Mind map ideas on a whiteboard: what might it boast about?

happiness

fear

envy

excitement

freedom

greed

joy

peace



4. Now try writing the first stanza (section) of your own poem. Use the poetic tools discussed earlier. *This can be done in your book or on the sheet.*

_____ **'s Boast**

