

### **Activity 1: Write a poem that has something to do with Islam.**

You can write any kind of poem you like about Islam. It can be about something we have learnt about in class, or your opinion about something, or how you feel about something. It's completely up to you! Be creative with your use of language and presentation – the way you present a poem on a page can be just as impactful as the words you write.

Below are some suggestions of the type of poem you could write, but you don't have to stick with these suggestions!

**Haiku:** A haiku has a total of 17 syllables. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the last line has 5 syllables again.

**Acrostic Poem:** Pick any word and write it vertically down your page and then think up a line beginning with each letter of the word.

For example:

**H**ajj is the pilgrimage Muslims should make at least once in their lifetime.

**A**ll 5 days people doing hajj wear ihram.

**J**ust praying and worshipping all day long.

**J**oyful Muslims congregating, from all corners of the world.

**Cinquain Poem:** A poem with a verse of 5 lines, none of them need to rhyme.

Line 1: 2 syllables

Line 2: 4 syllables

Line 3: 6 syllables

Line 4: 8 syllables

Line 5: 2 syllables

#### Example

My mum (2 syllables)  
Is so caring (4 syllables)  
She is always helpful (6 syllables)  
She is so beautiful and kind (8 syllables)  
Thank you. (2 syllables)

There is a long tradition of poetry in Islam. Many sahabas and pious people have used poetry as a way of expressing their feelings and love of Islam.

There was a sahaba called Hassan ibn Thabit (r.a.) and he is considered one of the very first, and greatest, poets of Islam. He would write poetry about our prophet and he used it as a tool to teach people about Islam. After the Battle of Uhud (which we have learnt about in Tareekh) the disbelievers were taunting and mocking the Muslims and our prophet (s.a.w) allowed Hassan to respond with poetry, that's how powerful his words were.

Below is a translation of one of the poems he created about the prophet:

<b>When I saw his light shining forth,</b>	<b>A mantle made up of brilliant shining stars.</b>	<b>The sight of him would dispense with the need for them.</b>
<b>In fear I covered my eyes with my palms,</b>	<b>I bore it until I could bear it no longer.</b>	<b>Muhammad is a human being but not like other human beings.</b>
<b>Afraid for my sight because of the beauty of his form.</b>	<b>I found the taste of patience to be like bitter aloes.</b>	<b>Rather he is a flawless diamond and the rest of mankind is just stones.</b>
<b>So I was scarcely able to look at him at all.</b>	<b>I could find no remedy to bring me relief</b>	<b>Blessings be on him so that perhaps Allah may have mercy on us</b>
<b>The lights from his light are drowned in his light</b>	<b>Other than delighting in the sight of the one I love.</b>	<b>on that burning Day when the Fire is roaring forth its sparks.</b>
<b>And his faces shines out like the sun and moon in one.</b>	<b>Even if he had not brought any clear signs with him,</b>	
<b>A spirit of light lodged in a body like the moon,</b>		

Jalal Ad-Din Rumi was a famous Persian poet who lived in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. His poems are famous all around the world even today. Most of his poems were written in Persian, but he also used Turkish, Arabic and Greek in his poems – so, don't be afraid to use different languages in your poems too!

Rumi's most famous work is called *Mathnawi Ma'nawi* which translates to *Spiritual Couplets* it is a poem that is 6 books long!

Here is a translation of one part of a Rumi poem:

<b>'Come, come, whoever you are.</b>	<b>Come, even if you have broken your vow a thousand times.</b>
<b>Wonderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.</b>	
<b>It doesn't matter.</b>	<b>Come, yet again, come, come.'</b>
<b>Ours is not a caravan of despair.</b>	

