



EXPLORING 'COLOUR MIXING' BY LOUISE CROSBY

Key themes: Art · The science of colour mixing · Illustration · Comics

Resource written by Rachel Piercey with Louise Crosby

Getting to know the poem

Ask your pupils to sit with their eyes closed and read the poem out loud to them. It may take a second reading for the full meaning of the poem to sink in, so let them enjoy the animal words first. Have they heard of all these creatures?

Display the poem (see below) or hand out individual copies and read the first four lines. At each animal's name, stop and ask what main colour it makes them think of. Once you have established red, yellow and blue, ask them what kind of colours these are. Discuss how different colours are made from primary colours, then move on to the second part of the poem. What colours are being described here?

You might like to bring up images of the different animals. It's worth noting that sea stars come in different colours, so make sure to search for 'purple sea star' or 'Pisaster ochraceus'.

If it would be helpful to refresh primary colours and colour mixing, this is a fun video from Sesame Street: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yu44JRTlxSQ>

Group warm-up

List the colours red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple and brown on the board. Then, as a class, come up with ideas for each colour. You could have a mix of items (e.g. post box, banana, sapphire) or, as an extra challenge, you could restrict yourself to a particular theme, for example:

- food
- sweets
- flowers
- nature
- items in the school or classroom
- items in their home
- cartoon characters
- words associated with a particular season



Tyger Tyger Magazine

New poems for children



Individual writing

Invite the children to write their own poems, inspired by 'Colour Mixing'. They can either choose a mix of items or one of the themes above. You could assign a different theme to each class table, to ensure a range of colour words.

Encourage your young poets to redraft, scribble out and change things – poets almost never get their poem right first time and their notebooks tend to be very messy! What will they choose as their title – will it be the same as Louise's or will they choose a new one?

Explain that if you have written a poem inspired by someone else, it's important to acknowledge them – and the easiest way to do this is with a short line underneath the title (see below).

When they're ready to write it up neatly, you may like to use the print-out template below – or you could add pictures and turn the poems into poetry comics!

Poetry comics

Louise is an illustrator as well as a poet, and she likes to illustrate poems and make them into comics. She has created a print-out template below which will enable your class to turn their poems into poetry comics.

..... after 'Colour Mixing' by Louise Crosby
nothing can be mixed to give

		or	
--	--	----	--

but you can mix

	with	to give
--	------	---------

	with	to create
--	------	-----------

	with	to give
--	------	---------

	with	and	will make
--	------	-----	-----------

We would love to see what your pupils come up with!

Tag us on Twitter @tygertygermag with a picture or email us on tygertygermagazine@gmail.com for some personalised feedback.



Tyger Tyger Magazine

New poems for children



after 'Colour Mixing' by Louise Crosby

by



Tyger Tyger Magazine

New poems for children



..... after 'Colour Mixing' by Louise Crosby

nothing can be mixed to give

_____	_____	or _____
-------	-------	----------

but you can mix

_____	with _____	to give _____
-------	------------	---------------

_____	with _____	to create _____
-------	------------	-----------------

_____	with _____	to give _____
-------	------------	---------------

by

_____	with _____	and _____	will make _____
-------	------------	-----------	-----------------





COLOUR MIXING

by Louise Crosby

nothing can be mixed to give

ladybird
canary
or peacock

but you can mix

canary	with ladybird	to give	clown fish	
canary	with peacock	to create	frog	
peacock	with ladybird	to give	sea star	
ladybird	with canary	and peacock	will make	monkey

