

Y8 Multicultural Poetry - Knowledge Organiser

What is multicultural poetry?

Multicultural poetry describes how people live in different parts of the world.

Definition/Etymology:

multi - more than one; many.

cultural - relating to the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a society

multicultural (adj) - relating to or containing several cultural or ethnic groups within a society

Key Poems

'This Is The Place' by Tony Walsh

'No Respect' by Laura Walsh

'Blessing' by Imtiaz Dhaker

'Island Man' by Grace Nichols

Key Quotations

"We're all the same in the dark."
— J.J. Murray, Renee And Jay



"We need to help students and parent cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community-- and this nation."
— César Chávez



"Although people all over the world pray in different ways, it is to each heart the most precious light."
— Alexis York Lumbard



"Beneath the armor of skin/and/bone/and/mind most of our colors are amazingly the same."
— Aberjhani, Elemental: The Power of Illuminated Love



Blessing by Imtiaz Dhaker

This poem describes how precious water is to poor people in a hot climate, where thirst is ever-present and there is dangerous shortage. The 'Blessing' of the title refers to the burst water pipe, and the panicked and near-hysterical reaction of the people who are granted this unexpected gift of gushing water that is difficult to save. The end of the poem is a note of joy and hope in the delight of the children.



Island Man by Grace Nichols

The poem expresses the homesickness immigrants can feel in a new country, while also suggesting that many immigrants keep their home alive within themselves and thus never truly leave it behind.

