

I do protest...poetically!

Pick a cause that you feel passionately about



Not My Business by Niyi Osundare

They picked Akanni up one morning
Beat him soft like clay
And stuffed him down the belly
Of a waiting jeep.

What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

They came one night
Booted the whole house awake
And dragged Danladi out,
Then off to a lengthy absence.
What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

Chinwe went to work one day
Only to find her job was gone:
No query, no warning, no probe -
Just one neat sack for a stainless record.
What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

And then one evening
As I sat down to eat my yam
A knock on the door froze my hungry hand.
The jeep was waiting on my bewildered lawn
Waiting, waiting in its usual silence.



**Look at the poem 'Not My Business'.
What is happening in each verse of the
poem?**

**How does the narrator feel?
Does the tone of the narrator change? Why?**

**What do you think the poet's message is?
Why?**

**Pick out two powerful phrases and identify
and explain:**

- what technique is being used**
- how it conveys the poet's message**
- why it is an effective way to get the
message across**

- Protest poetry raises awareness about social issues e.g., civil rights, climate change, gender equality. They illustrate key themes like injustice, activism, and resistance.
- Many famous poets like Shelley, Blake, Maya Angelo and Langston Hughes, have written protest poems. Modern slam poets, rappers and grime artists also use poetry to speak up about social justice.
- Find two protest poems online. Write two sentences for each explaining what they are about and why they are effective

Over to you



CQ: How can I express my views on a cause I feel passionate about?

- 1. Choose a social, environmental, or personal issue that you feel passionately about.**

You could think local or global issues, such as inequality, bullying, environmental protection, or mental health awareness.

It must be something that resonates with you.



- 2. Write a protest poem**

write a short protest poem (8-12 lines) about your chosen cause.

Focus on poetic techniques such as:

- Metaphor and imagery to create vivid pictures.
- Rhyme and rhythm (though not necessary for free verse).
 - Repetition to emphasize your point.
- Emotive language to convey your passion and viewpoint.

- 3. Visual representation**

Create a visual art piece that complements your poem.

This could be a drawing, painting, digital art, collage, or even a poster.

The visual should capture the emotion, message, or imagery of your poem.

- 4. Reflection**

Write a brief paragraph explaining your artistic choices, the issue you selected, and how both your poem and visual art reflect your feelings on the topic.



Power and Conflict poetry considers different aspects of power and conflict:

- Inner conflict
- Conflict with nature
- Conflict between individuals and society
 - Conflict between groups

Poets often look at the following themes:

The impact of conflict

Protest against war and conflict

Highlighting injustice/prejudice



Task 2: Write a historical letter from a perspective of conflict:

- Imagine you are living in a historical period or event related to conflict (e.g., World War I, civil rights movements, revolutions).
- Write a letter from the perspective of a soldier, civilian, leader, or activist involved in the conflict.
- The letter should express your thoughts and feelings about power and conflict, using language that reflects the time and place.
- You should include descriptions of the environment and emotional toll, using at least two **poetic techniques** in the letter (like metaphors or imagery).

Year 8 Term 2 Love of Learning Project: **Power and Conflict Poetry**



Task 3: Artistic Challenge

Either
add a **cover page** for your anthology
or
create an **illustration** that represents the central ideas of power and conflict.

This could be a drawing of a battlefield, a leader's struggle for justice, or a scene that represents personal conflict.

Task 1: Create a Power and Conflict Anthology:

Choose 3–5 poems on a "Power and Conflict" theme (these could come from poems you've studied in school or others you find online).

For each poem, you will:

- Write a brief **summary** highlighting the key themes.
- **Identify** two poetic techniques (e.g., imagery, symbolism, alliteration) and explain their effect in the poem.
- Reflect on how the poem portrays the relationship between power and conflict.

Task 4: Reflection

Write a short paragraph reflecting on what you learned about power and conflict through this project.
How do the themes of power and conflict relate to today's world or your own experiences?



Task 1: Rewriting a Scene in a Modern Setting:

- Choose a key scene from *A Christmas Carol* (e.g., Scrooge's visit from the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Cratchit family dinner, or Scrooge's final redemption).
- Rewrite the scene, setting it in the present day. You should modernize the dialogue, setting, and social circumstances while keeping the themes intact.
- For example, instead of visiting the Cratchits, Scrooge could visit a struggling single-parent household today. The Ghost of Christmas Past could show Scrooge scenes from his childhood that reflect modern concerns like peer pressure or greed.

Year 9 Term 2 Love of Learning Project

Rewriting Scrooge's Story: A Modern Christmas Carol



Task 2: Character Diary Entries:

- Choose one of the main characters (Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, or Tiny Tim) and write two diary entries from their perspective:
 - The first entry should describe the character's feelings and experiences at the beginning of the story.
 - The second entry should show how the character's emotions and outlook have changed by the end of the novella.
- focus on the emotional journey of your character and use quotes from the novella to inspire your writing

Task 3: Create an Alternative Ending:

- Write an alternative ending to the novella, imagining what might have happened if Scrooge hadn't changed his ways.
- Consider what consequences would unfold for Scrooge and the other characters (e.g., the Cratchits, Fred, or Tiny Tim).
- The alternate ending could explore themes like regret, missed opportunities, or the consequences of selfishness.



Task 4: Design a Modern "Christmas Ghost":

- Design your own version of one of the Christmas ghosts (Past, Present, or Future) in a modern context.
- You can draw or create a digital representation of the ghost and explain its appearance, personality, and what it would represent today. For example, the Ghost of Christmas Present could take the form of a social media influencer, highlighting modern-day consumerism.
- In addition to the visual design, you should write a short description explaining how your ghost would help Scrooge understand the importance of compassion and community in a modern world.

Task 5: Reflection on Dickens' Message:

- Write a paragraph reflecting on how *A Christmas Carol's* themes of generosity, redemption, and social responsibility are relevant to modern life.
- You can relate the novella's message to current events, social issues, or your personal experiences.

