



ENGLISH

Welcome to the English Super Curriculum. Below you'll find a whole host of things to do to stretch yourself beyond the classroom curriculum.

Let's take a look at this month's focus: more poetry. All three of these gifted female poets currently have poems that are studied at GCSE level.

READ

Carol Rumens is an octogenarian and still adding to her growing collection of poetry. She is also a professor in creative writing at Bangor University where she encourages others to embrace a love of language and "make various things with it – poems chiefly, but also essays, plays, translation, occasional fiction and journalistic odds and ends. Poetry can sometimes bring these different genres interestingly together."

Read this poem:

['Off the Hook' by Carol Rumens](#) - serenbooks.com

WATCH

Carol Ann Duffy was appointed Poet Laureate in 2019; she is the first woman and first openly LGBTQ+ individual to hold the prestigious title of being an ambassador of poetry. Did you know that the post is held for 10 years?

Take a look at an interview with Duffy about a collection of her poetry entitled *The Bees*:

[Meet the Author: Carol Ann Duffy](#) - BBC News

Now, dive into *Medusa* – a poem that takes a look at themes of jealousy and anger by giving the mythological Gorgon sister a voice:

[Medusa by Carol Ann Duffy](#) - BBC Bitesize

LISTEN

Jane Weir, a poet and designer, often incorporates her knowledge of fabric and textile craft into her work.

Listen to Weir's poem based on a modernist textile designer she discovered named Phyllis Baron. The poem focuses on her subject's time spent as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse on the Belgian front during WWI.

[1914, Working With Red in a Field Hospital, Belgium](#) - poetryarchive.org

DO

Find interesting words that stand out from a news article or a page of a favourite book to form your own original poem. Block out the words that you are going to discard. This is referred to as blackout (or erasure) poetry. You can easily do this online by copying the text into a PowerPoint slide.