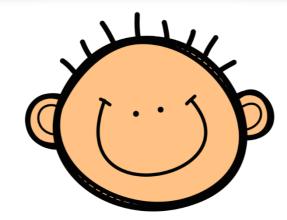
EAL: Using poetry to celebrate diversity and heritage languages







Renfrewshire EAL Service









Gongs for creative kids returning to their mother tongue

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Mini wordsmiths are poetry pros

Multilingual pupils come top in competition

Kenneth Speirs

Multilingual pupils from Renfrewshire and beyond have celebrated their talent by taking part in a poetry competition.

The youngsters, who hail from countries across the world, have been getting help to learn English thanks to a service set up by Renfrewshire Council.

Ruth Cunningham, who works with the English as an Additional Language team, supported 12 of the children who entered the Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition.

And three of them – Daniel Homstol, 10, from Norway, András Poszmik, 9, from Hungary, and Milmante Dzisevic, 10, from Lithuania, were crowned winners. Ruth said: "The competition has

allowed my students to use their 'other voice' and develop their writing skills in both languages. "It has been an incredibly

successful activity and has benefitted the children in terms of motivation and feeling valued.

"The winner of the upper primarygroup — Daniel Homstol — arrived from Norway last year and currently attends Bishopton

Primary. His dad is a coach/ physiotherapist with Celtic FC. "He wrote his poem in

Norwegian about a fox that likes to write.

"Daniel has been so motivated by this event and it has helped him show to his peers and family what a successful learner he is. His beautifully-crafted poem even rhymes in Norwegian." When Daniel shared a film clip

When Daniel shared a film clip of him reciting his poem with the class, he was able to translate it to them and teach them some words in Norwegian.



Russian speaking Milmante Dzisevic



Language skills András Poszmik

"His dad attended the award ceremony and told me how delighted he was about his son's first language being recognised in this way," Ruth added.

"He also commented on how grateful he was to the Scottish education system for the support his child has received." Runner-up András has newly

arrived from Hungary and attends St Anne's Primary, in Erskine. He wrote about a famous

Hungarian poem called "Fülemüle" (Nightingale). "András has settled well in to

primary four and life in Scotland," Ruth said. Milmante urgete her noom in

Milmante wrote her poem in Russian about her bulldog called Lady.

She has been in Scotland for a few years, and when she wrote the poem she was attending St Fergus Primary, in Paisley, but has since moved to St. John Bosco Primary, in Erskine.

"Milmante has adapted so well to life in Scotland and has managed to maintain a great standard of both spoken and written Russian," Ms Cunningham said.

The award ceremony was held at the Language show Live at the SECC. The winners were chosen by the Spanish poet Juana Adcock and the actor Atta Yaqub.

Short videos of all three children's poems can be found on YouTube and the Renfrewshire EAL blog at http:// ealrenfrewshire.blogspot.co.uk





Original Poem in Norwegian

by Daniel Homstol

Supported by EAL Service, Renfrewshire Council



Pupil Voice



Motivation

- *"integrative and instrumental"* motivation to learn language (Gardener, 1985)
- Real, personal and relevant text
- "For all our talk of motivation, I think we often fail to recognize a truth that is staring us in the face: If educators are able to create the conditions under which children can become engaged with academic tasks, the acquisition of intellectual skills will probably follow" (Kohn 1993, 146).

Integration

- Accepted
- Valued
- Respected
- Admired
- Communication



Pupil Voice

- Exposure of other voice
- Recognition of all voices
- "mirror" which "positively reflects their identity"
- "If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world." Wittgenstein

• "powerful user of language with additional insights and its potential, in comparison to monolingual students" (Cummins 2002).

Self

- Asset to the class
- True to self
- Respect / Kudos





Poetic kids remember their roots Bilingual pupils honoured for work

Kenneth Speirs

Polish, Hungarian and

Mandarin are just three of the languages that feature in a collection of poems written by Renfrewshire youngsters. Sixbilingual pupils won awards at a national poetry competition for their creative writing talents.

Of the 14 awards up for grabs through the Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition, run by Scotland's National Centre for Languages six were awarded to pupils from St John Ogilvie Primary, St James Primary and Castlehead High.

They wrote written poetry in their native tongue in order to share their other voices.

Renfrewshire EAL (English as Renfrewshire EAL (English as an additional language) teachers helped support bilingual pupils to create a collection of poems written in languages such as Polish, Hungarian, Chinese, Punjabi, Catalan, Arabic, Greek, Filipino, Korean and Dutch. One of the winning Renfrewshire pupils, Arabic-speaking Laith Kabour, Irom St John Ogilvie Primary is a new arrival to Scotland. He came to the area in 2015 through Renfrewshire's Svrian, Refugee Resettlement Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme.

His poem uses the metaphor of a growing tree to describe how he maintains his Syrian roots and Arabic language and culture, while growing his branches in his new life in Scotland.

Laith's mother, who is still living in Syria, has been able to read and hear her son's poem by visiting the blog run by EAL teachers in Renfrewshire. She is proud of how well Laith is learning and thriving in his new enviror

Ruth Cunningham is one of the EAL specialist teachers who has supported the pupils this year. She said: "We are so proud of all the bilingual children in Renfrewshire

and want to encourage our pupils to continue learn their native language and to use it to be creative.

"The children can also encourage their Scottish peers to see the benefits of speaking more than one language and act as a role model for language learning

learning." Leader of Renfrewshire Council, Councillor Mark Macmillan, said: "I'd like to congratulate all our talented pupils who, with the support of their teachers, performed so well at a national level through the Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition. "The work produced by the students was of such a high standard

and serves as an example of the wealth of creative and talented young people we have in Renfrewshire. "It is especially inspiring to see the pupils celebrate their native language and heritage while flourishing in their new surrundinge"

and heritage while flourishing in their new surroundings." The winning pupils from Renfrewshire are: Laith Kabour, 10, (P4-P6 category) winner; St John Ogilvie (Arabic); Miriam Espinosa, 11, (P7-S1 category) winner St James' Primary, Renfrew (Catalan); Stefan Benyak, 14 (S2-S3 category) winner Castlehead High (Hungarian); Kacper Jodelka (Polish), 7 (P1-P3) category) Highly Commended St John Ogilvie (Polish); Ashley Li, 10 (P4-P6 category) Highly Commended St James' Renfrew (Mandarin); Lemuel Pascual, 11 (P7-S1 category) Highly Commended St James' Renfrew (Filipino).

(Filipino).

The Mother Tongue Other Tongue celebration event and prize-giving ceremony was held at the SECC on Saturday.

Winners and highly commended pupils' work will be published in an anthology and the children will receive a prize and trophy. For more information on the

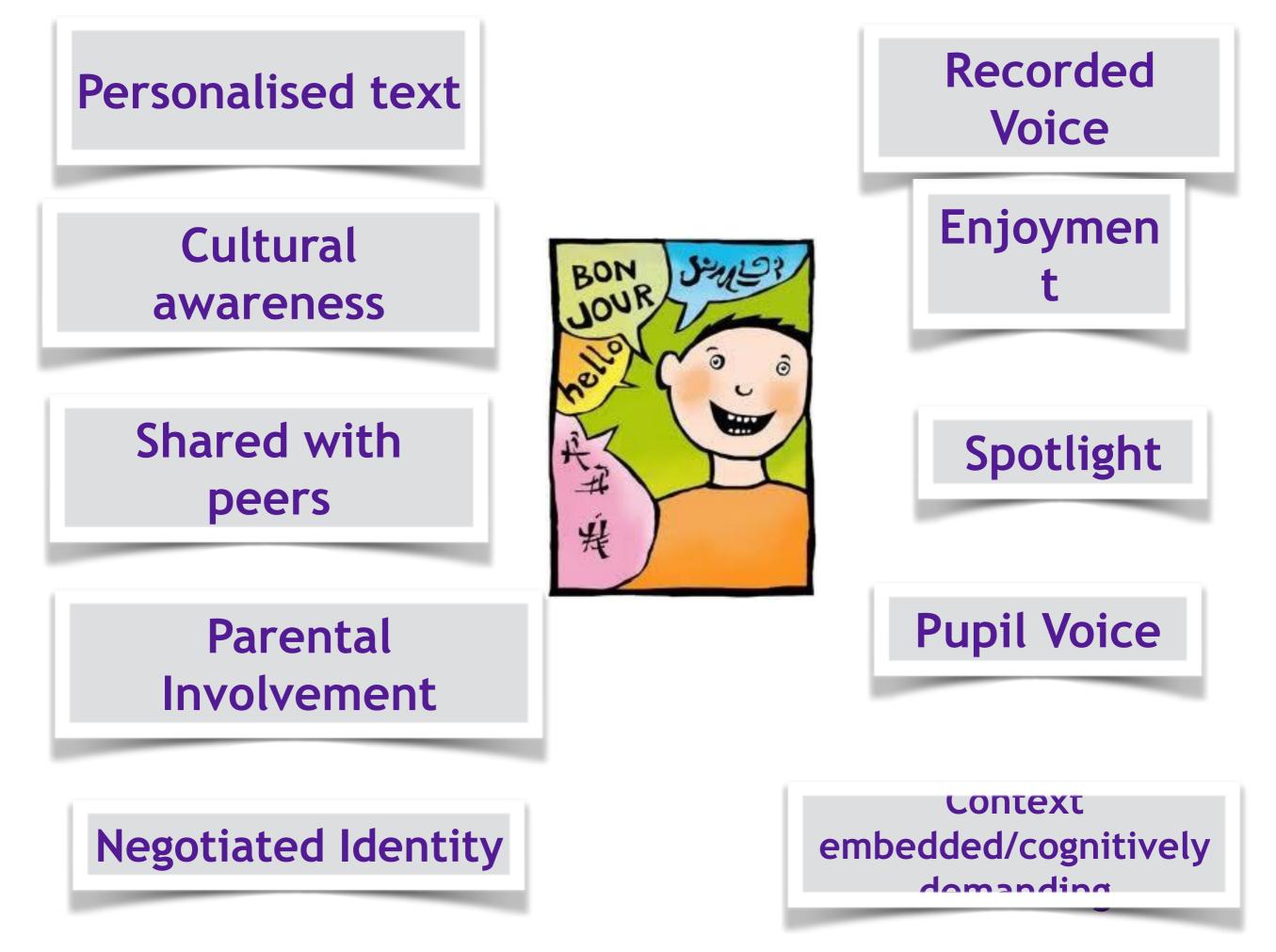
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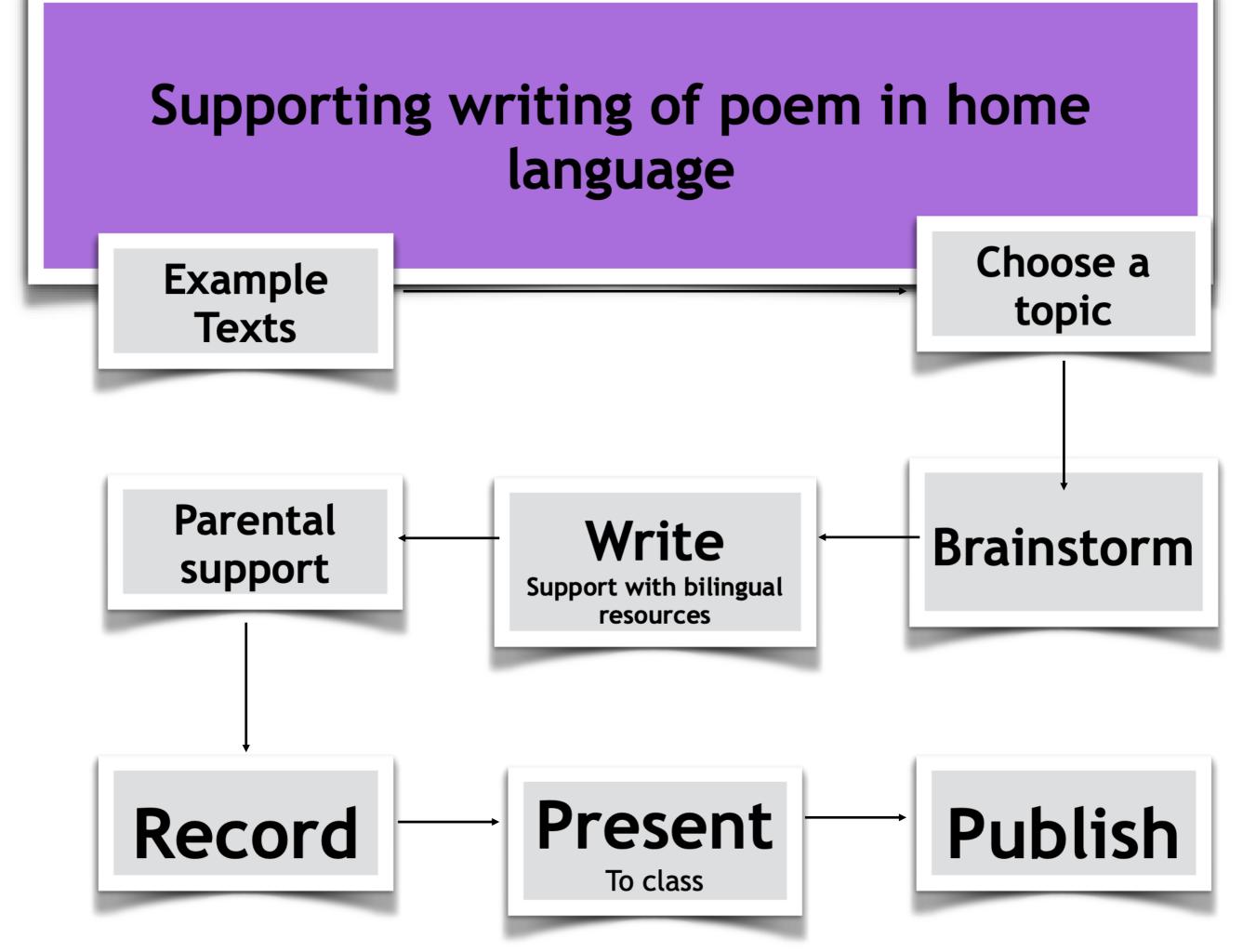


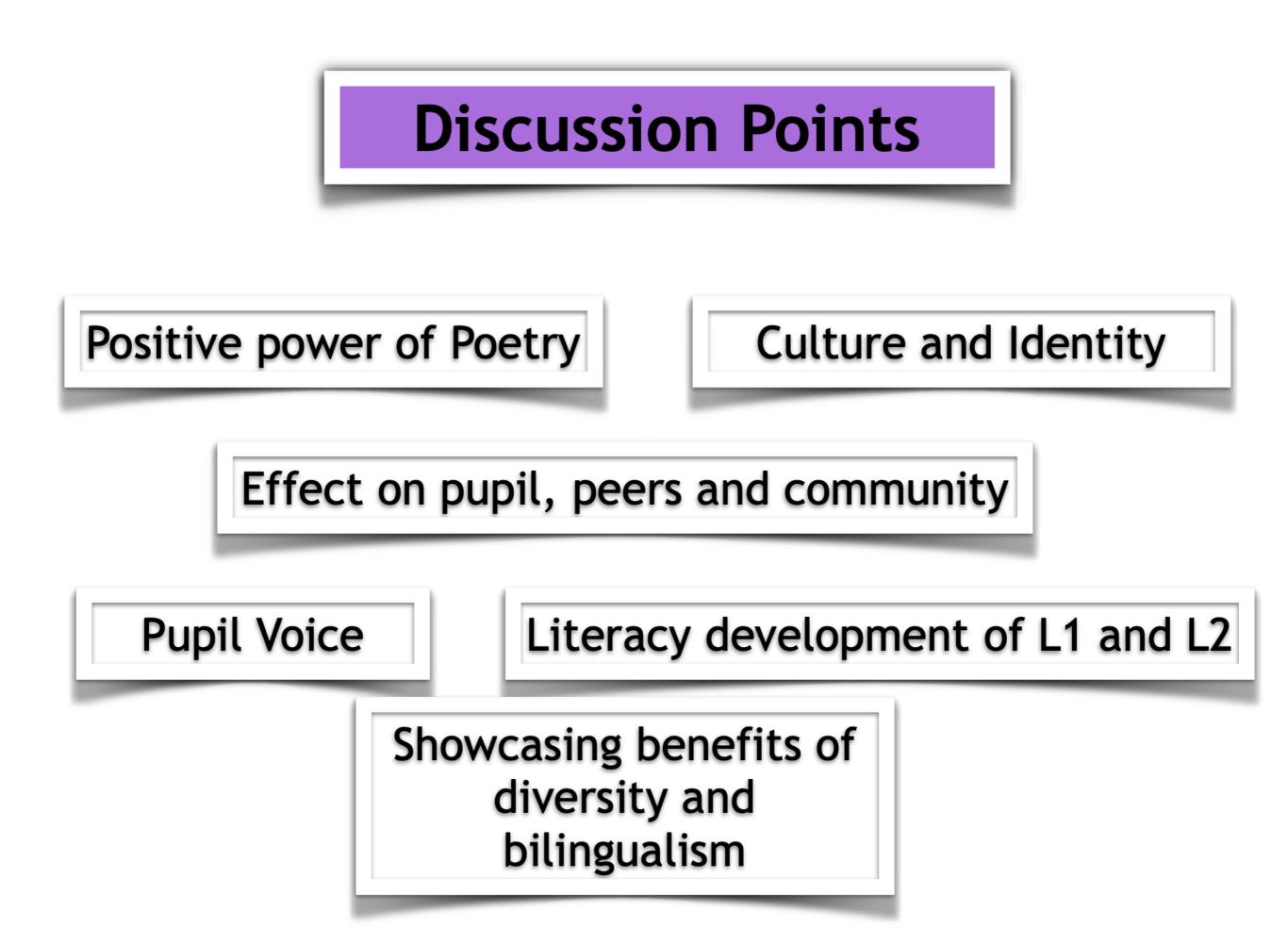
Original Poem in Arabic

ليث كعبور by Laith Kabour

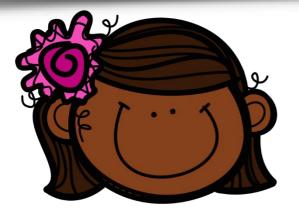
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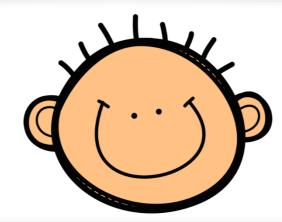






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<u>gw17cunninghamruth@glow.sch.uk</u> <u>ruth.cunningham@renfrewshire.school</u>

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