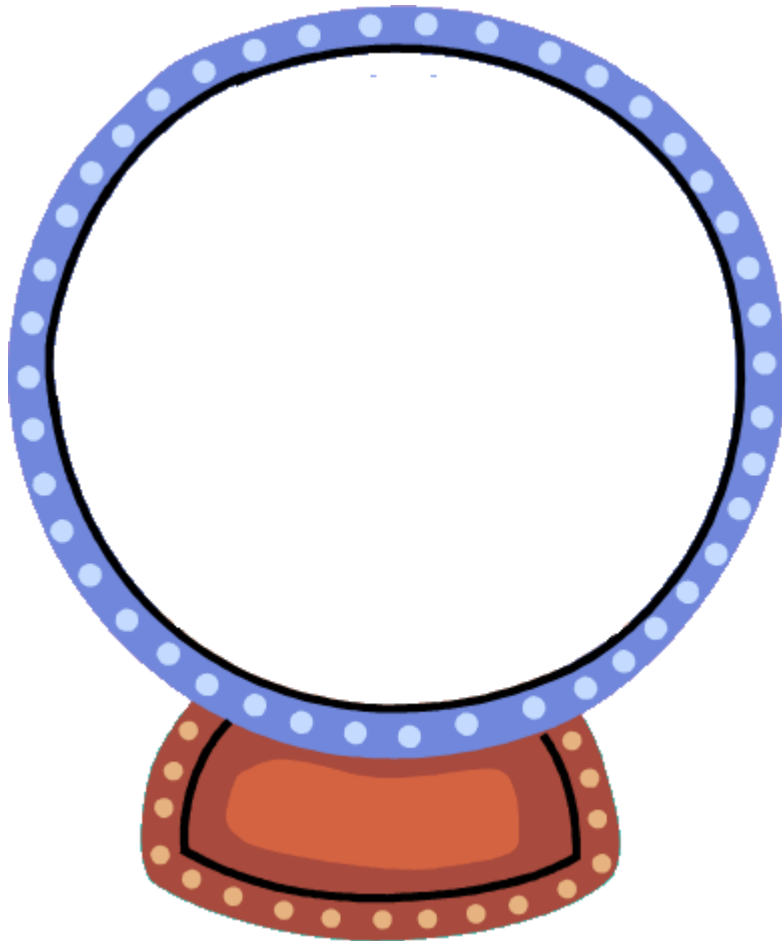


Pre-reading: Perceptions of home

How did you view your home country when you were younger?
What images do you think of or what memories do you have?

Draw the images you envision in the snow globe underneath.



How do you now view your home country?
What do you see now that you didn't when you were younger?

Draw the images in the house below.



Approaching the poem

For an online copy of the poem, visit: <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/the-emigree/#>

Read, then re-read the poem. As you read it through again, take two colours and highlight words that are positive and ones that are more negative. As an extension, choose two of your positive and negative choices and annotate the poem, explaining what impact they have on the reader.

Now choose colours to represent each of the following words, and highlight these in the poem:

Colour	Words that show...
	the city as ideal
	that the city she has left is plagued by conflict
	her affection and possessive feelings towards her home city
	a sense of threat

Is there a change between the number of positive and negative words as the poem progresses? What else do you notice about the word choices in the poem?

Developing language analysis

Working in groups, discuss the following key quotations from the poem, considering what meanings are implied and how they would impact upon the reader. Complete the table with your ideas. Some boxes have been completed for you...

Quotation	Poetic technique	Implied meaning	Effect on reader	Specific words to analyse closely
'the bright, filled paperweight'	metaphor		Readers feel warmly towards the speaker, reminiscing themselves about places they feel fondly about.	
'I am branded by an impression of sunlight'				branded
'the graceful slopes / glow even clearer'		The sound techniques used here create a slow, relaxed pace and paint her home city as somewhere gentle, tranquil and idyllic.		
'frontiers rise between us, close like waves'			Readers feel the speaker is somewhat naïve; despite the evident conflict and her distance from the city, she still feels the city is 'white' and 'clear[er]'.	
'My city takes me dancing through the city of walls'	personification			
'They accuse me of absence, they circle me. / They accuse me of being dark in their free city.'				they

Developing language analysis

Working in groups, discuss the following key quotations from the poem, considering what meanings are implied and how they would impact upon the reader. There is space for you to choose some quotations also - think about those which you think help explore how the speaker feels about her home city and the difficulties it, and she, faces.

Quotation	Poetic technique	Implied meaning	Effect on reader	Specific words to analyse closely
'the bright, filled paperweight'				
'My city takes me dancing through the city of walls'				
'the graceful slopes / glow even clearer'				

Making links

How could you make links between 'The émigree' and another poem? Choose a poem you think would be interesting to compare it with then complete the Venn diagram. Identify similarities in the centre and analytical ideas which do not link in the separate sections. There are some ideas to help you make decisions about the second poem at the bottom of the page.

