M is for…

'M is for My Poetry' by Lady Lucy
M is for...
Martin’s meaning machine

A KS2 activity by Young People’s Laureate for Wales Martin Daws for Literature Wales

www.literaturewales.org  www.youngpeopleslaureate.org

A simple device for creating a meaningful poem in a few easy stages.

**Stage 1.**

Finish this line:

Remember means ____________________________
(e.g. Remember means Past)

Move the word at the end of line 1 to the start of line 2 and then finish the line off, without repeating any words.

Means ____________________________
(e.g. Past means History)

And again

Means ____________________________
(e.g. History means Roots)

**Stage 2.**

List the four words in the middle of the page.

*E.g.* Remember
Past
History
Roots

Begin the first line with “I remember” and finish it with a memory.

For example, I remember your garden

Write a line for each one of the remaining three words, for example:

I remember your garden
flowers border your path to the past
lead me into your history
barefoot over a lawn edged with love
held close among my roots

Draft this as a poem by adding words/cutting words/changing words and writing more lines in any way that you like.

I remember your garden
it’s a path to the past
leading me barefoot
a lawn edged with love
flowers seem dreamlike
secret among my roots
under the magnolia tree …(tbc)

Keep working at it until you are satisfied that it is as good as it can be.

**Stage 3.**

Produced by Forward Arts Foundation and its partners for National Poetry Day 2014. Activities for each letter of the word REMEMBER, this year’s National Poetry Day theme, are available at www.forwardartsfoundation.org
What lines can you recall from poems you've heard throughout your life? Why do these lines stay with us over time? Is it the resonance of their image, or their musicality which embeds them in our ear?

First, read this poem in your head.

Now read the poem again, **aloud**, to yourself or a partner.

How does this change the poem? Does it change your understanding of the poem? Can you see more clearly why the poet has made these choices in layout and form?

Are there any lines or phrases in the poem that now stick in your memories having heard the poem aloud?

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**I love my love with an X**

and the black cat bone
she buries in a kiss is sweeter now
than honey from the book of Genesis.

Rain on the yards; a cuckoo in the meadows;
I look in my bed tonight
and find
my brothers and sisters gone
and the curdled glaze
of everafter on my father's skin
is cold as ice.

**I love my love with an X**

and here she comes, now, now,
stealing across the fields and creeping round
to feed

my mouth
a sweet spot in the dark
she thinks is safe
until I drink her in.