

## This is just to say – activity guidance notes

Think about what you want the children to learn from this activity. Here are some possible learning objectives:

- To recognise ways that poets create their impact.
- To identify particular structures of poems
- To understand that poems do not need to rhyme.
- To use vocabulary in a powerful way
- To consider the effect of a poem on the reader

These objectives will clearly affect how you approach the planning and teaching of this lesson, but here is one way you might go about it:

- Ask the children to research the poet – William Carlos Williams – using laptops/iPads – and to report back their information.
- Did they find any poems by this poet that they liked?
- Read *This is just to say* and gather opinions/thoughts on this.
- What do the children think of the structure/lack of punctuation?
- Read your own version and discuss in groups.
- Read another version e.g. by a previous pupil. Are there any differences/similarities?
- In groups, children discuss something they have had to be forgiven for. Ask them to assign a group leader who will report to the whole class.
- Each group leader to choose the ‘best’ story from a peer to tell to the class.
- The class vote on their favourite and then this story becomes the basis of a class poem.
- You will model the creation of the poem, building on children’s ideas and doing the scribing on the board.
- Children then write their own poems which will all be displayed.
- Children could perform their poems during a parent’s evening or assembly.