

# READING POETRY IN ENGLISH

## EXERCISES

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McKenna in "Beckett on the Baltic"  
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# A project

Work in a group of four. Watch the recordings by Tatenda Matsvai and Suzanne Walsh that are in the section Vocal Poetry. Write down the lines which you find most intriguing – at least five per person. Read them aloud to one another and then choose five that you will discuss in detail. Concentrate on their internal meanings. Do you find it an easy task? At the end of this project write down – as a group – a paragraph for each line you’ve selected. Or choose your own creative response to the recordings. A short film? A sequence of photographs? A set of memes? If you work individually, you may write a review of 300 words on any of the reading sessions.



# Group work



In your group of 2-3, record your reading of the poem “Where” by Michael Edwards. Prepare the reading in a careful way. What is the pace of your reading? Is the tempo steady or not? Are you going to read it as a chorus, or perhaps line by line? Or word by word? Or can you work out another solution? Make sure you give appropriate attention to each individual line: even though there is obvious similarity between them, they are much different. How to give justice to this difference in your recording? Make sure you understand each and every word that appears in the poem. If unanswerable questions appear, write them down; perhaps they will inspire you in due course? Don't forget that when reading poetry some questions may remain unanswered for ever. You may wish to send us your work; we'd be delighted to listen to it.

## “Where” by Michael Edwards

Where, is a well.

Where, is the night's incisors.

Where, is an apple-tree in the quicksand of its shadow.

Where, is hills that are like hills.

Where, is the long sharpness of a blade.

Where is a bird sown.

Where, is wine changed to wine.

Where, is beyond the gate and the garden.

Where, is a man burning.

Where, is orchards and galaxies consumed, conceived again.

Fruit, stars, ponderable spirit.

