

Notes for teachers

Resources to print are located at the start of the presentation

Questioning – ideas are located in the notes section which are suitable for cold calling or ‘pose-pause-pounce-bounce’ style questioning to help the students draw meaning from the poetry.

A pot of ‘river slime’ can be a useful optional extra for the activity towards the end – wallpaper paste, soaked chia seeds or tapioca with green food colouring in a jar. Students can touch the ‘sludge’ to help them come up with create ideas to describe polluted rivers.





Use of rhyme
Does the poem rhyme? What is the pattern of the rhyme? Write some rhyming pairs from the poem.

Layout
How is the poem set out on the page? What do you notice about the length of the lines?

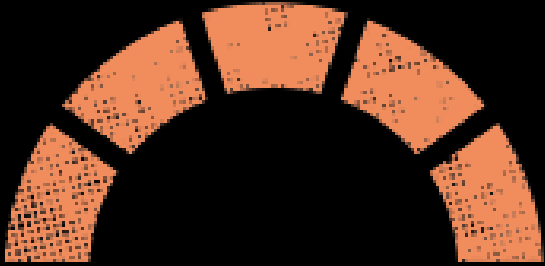
Atmosphere
What do you know about the place or the feelings in the poem?

Description
What words are used to describe the river?

The River by Clive Riche

Who? By Charles Causley

City River by June Crebbin



The Sherbourne Valley Project



Warwickshire
Wildlife Trust



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How do poems help us to understand rivers?



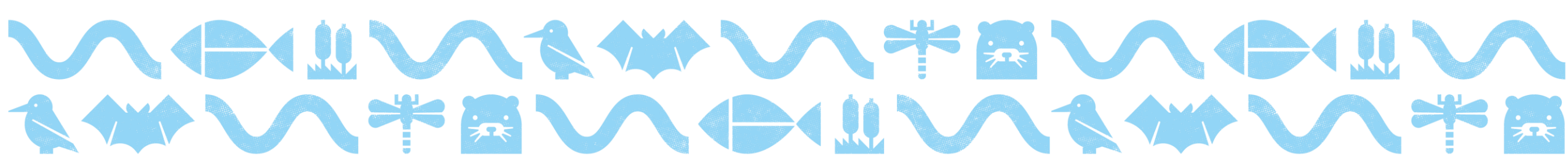
Discuss how rivers inspire creativity.



Understand how poetry can help us to view rivers.



Create our own river poetry.









The River By Clive Riche

Who lives forever?

The river.

Who sees all weather?

The river.

Who rushes past kings, with their
crown, swords and rings?

The river.

Who goes all places?

The river.

Who sees all faces?

The river.

Who dawdles, who gushes, over
Boulders and rushes?

Who pulls and who pushes?

The river.

Who? By Charles Causley

Who is that child I see wandering, wandering
Down by the side of the quivering stream?
Why does he seem not to hear, though I call to him?
Where does he come from, and what is his name?

Why do I see him at sunrise and sunset
Taking, in old-fashioned clothes, the same track?
Why, when he walks, does he cast not a shadow
Though the sun rises and falls at his back?

Why does the dust lie so thick on the hedgerow
By the great field where a horse pulls the plough?
Why do I see only meadows, where houses
Stand in a line by the riverside now?

Why does he move like a wraith by the water,
Soft as the thistledown on the breeze blown?
When I draw near him so that I may hear him,
Why does he say that his name is my own?

River (kenning poem) by June Crebbin

wall-slapper

factory-passer

rubbish-receiver

backstreet-winder

bridge-nudger

steps-licker

park-wanderer

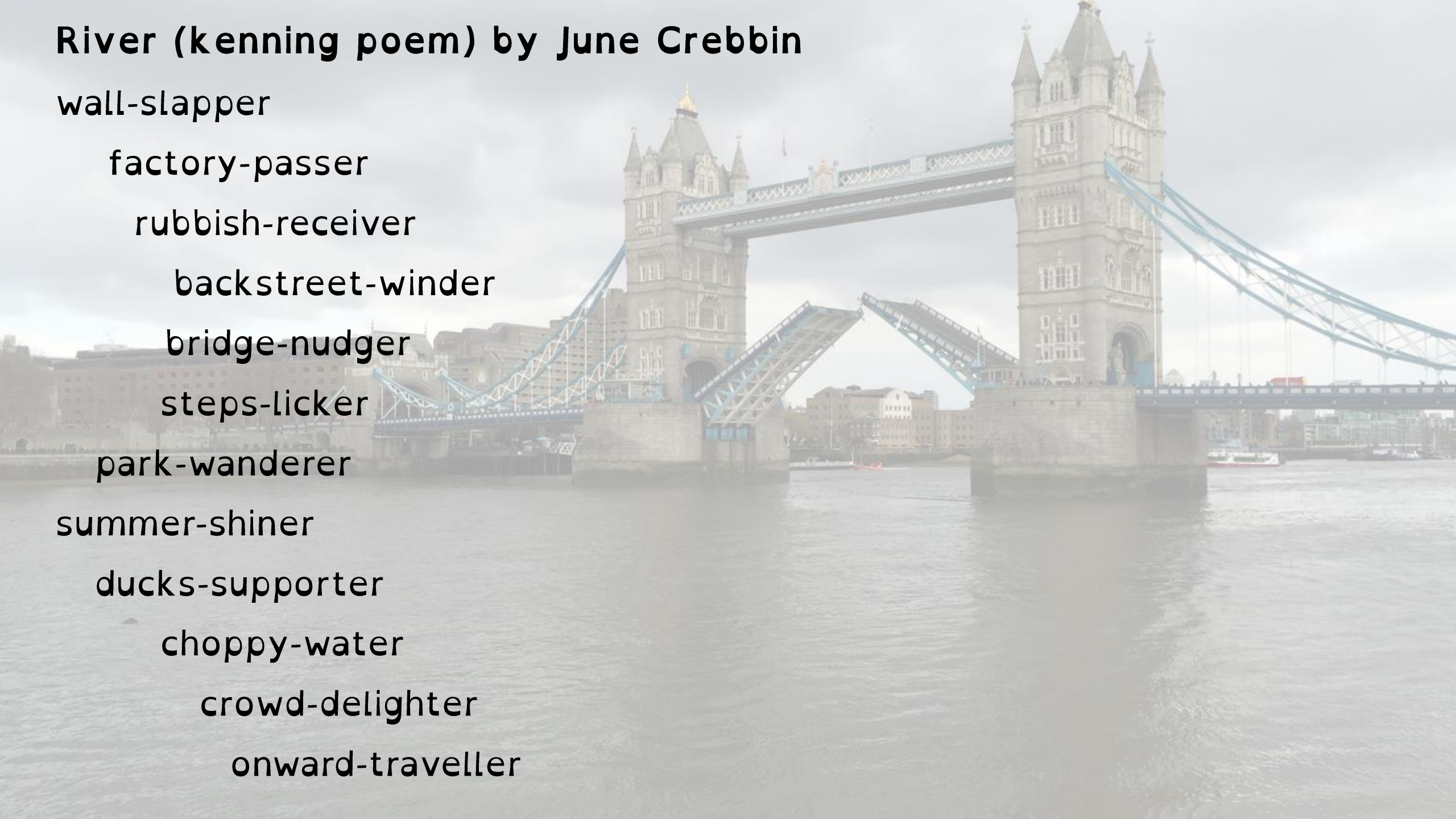
summer-shiner

ducks-supporter

choppy-water

crowd-delighter

onward-traveller



Our class kenning poem – write your ideas here!









Poem writing challenge

- Create a kenning or other style of poem about a river.
- You can choose anything from a mountain stream to the mighty Amazon, a city river, a polluted or clean one.
- When you have finished, illustrate your poem with drawings and words

