

## What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

### 1. Listen to a protest song

- Listen to 1960s song ‘Streets of London’. Read the lyrics as you do.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Dk1O1Tyhu4>
- How would you sum up the message of the song? Could you write it in just three sentences?

### 2. Highlight language features

- Read the *Lyrics* of the song.
- Look for any of the *Persuasive Features*.
- Highlight and annotate the *Lyrics* to show them. Check what you find against the *Annotated version*.

### 3. Now for some writing

- Read *Adapting Lyrics*. Change the words of the song to make a new song about a different issue that you care about.
- Write out a verse of your new song.

*Well done! Share your writing with a grown-up.*

### Try the Fun-Time Extra

- Can you record your new song and share it with someone else?
- Can you make a list of other songs with a message like this? Ask people in your house for ideas.

## Lyrics

Have you seen the old man in the closed down market,  
Kicking up the papers with his worn out shoes?  
In his eyes you see no pride, hand held loosely by his side  
Yesterday's papers telling yesterday's news

*So how can you tell me you're lonely  
And say for you that the sun don't  
shine?  
Let me take you by the hand  
And lead you through the streets of  
London  
I'll show you something  
To make you change your mind.*



Have you seen the old girl who walks the streets of London?  
Dirt in her hair and her clothes in rags?  
She's no time for talkin', she keeps right on walkin',  
Carrying her home in two carrier bags.

### *Chorus*

In the all-night café at a quarter past eleven  
same old man sitting there on his own.  
Looking at the world over the rim of his teacup.  
Each tea lasts an hour then he wanders home alone.

### *Chorus*

Have you seen the old man outside the seaman's mission?  
Memory fading with the medal ribbons that he wears?  
In our winter city, the rain cries a little pity  
For one more forgotten hero and a world that doesn't care.

'Streets of London' By **Ralph McTell**  
(1969)

## Persuasive Features

*Can you find any of these in the Streets of London song?*

### **Persuasive Language Features**

- Present tense
- Conjunctions for cause, contrast, condition
- Adverbs for lists, cause, contrast, attitude
- Emotive language
- Strong images/word play\*
- Deliberate ambiguity
- Rhetorical questions
- Daring reader to disagree
- Opinion as fact

### **Word Play/Imagery\***

- Alliteration
- Repetition
- Onomatopoeia
- Simile
- Metaphor
- Exaggeration/hyperbole
- Contrasting pairs
- Lists (esp. of 3)

## Lyrics – annotated

Have you seen the old man in the closed down market,  
Kicking up the papers with his worn out shoes?  
In his eyes you see no pride, hand held loosely by his side  
Yesterday's papers telling yesterday's news

*So how can you tell me you're lonely  
And say for you that the sun don't shine?  
Let me take you by the hand  
And lead you through the streets of London  
I'll show you something  
To make you change your mind.*

- Emotive language = blue
- Present tense = green
- Strong images = yellow
- Daring the reader to disagree = grey
- Adverbs = pink
- Rhetorical questions = red question mark ?

Have you seen the old girl who walks the streets of London?  
Dirt in her hair and her clothes in rags?  
She's no time for talkin', she keeps right on walkin',  
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### *Chorus*

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Have you seen the old man outside the seaman's mission?  
Memory fading with the medal ribbons that he wears?  
In our winter city, the rain cries a little pity  
For one more forgotten hero and a world that doesn't care.

# Adapting Lyrics

Have you seen the **old man** in the **closed down market**,  
**Kicking up the papers** with his **worn out shoes**?  
In his eyes you see no pride, hand held loosely by his side  
Yesterday's **papers telling** yesterday's **news**

So how can you tell me you're **lonely**  
And say for you that the sun don't shine?  
Let me take you by the hand  
And lead you through the **streets of London**  
I'll show you something  
To make you change your mind.



Try changing the words in bold to adapt this song for a new audience and purpose. Try to keep the rhythm and rhyme scheme the same.

Extract from 'Streets of London' By **Ralph McTell** (1969)

# New Verse

*Write your new verse here:*

A large rectangular area with a decorative orange and black zigzag border. Inside the border, there are 20 horizontal lines for writing, providing space for a new verse.