What to do today

1. Read and listen to a poem

- Read *The Sound Collector*. What do you notice about the poem? Which line do you think is most memorable?
- Listen to Roger McGough (the poet) read the poem. What do you notice new when you hear the poem read?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIL0kgnxJIo

2. Make notes about the sounds in your house

- Be very quiet and try to listen to the sounds in your house for 2-3 minutes. Listen for sounds coming from outside too.
- What might you hear at different times of the day? Early in the morning? In the evening? Late at night?
- Think about how to describe these sounds and note them down.

3. Write a poem about the sounds in your house

- Use *Planning a Poem* to help you to write a poem about the sounds in your house.
- Practise reading your poem out loud.
Change any parts that don't sound right to you.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Ask someone else in your house to make a list of the sounds they notice. Do theirs match yours?
- Read and share your poem with somebody else. You could record a version to share.
- Write a version of the poem as if you were somewhere else – back at school or outside somewhere.
- Find out more about Roger McGough:
https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poet/roger-mcgough/

The Sound Collector
Roger McGough

A stranger called this morning
Dressed all in black and grey
Put every sound into a bag
And carried them away

The whistling of the kettle
The turning of the lock
The purring of the kitten
The ticking of the clock

The popping of the toaster
The crunching of the flakes
When you spread the marmalade
The scraping noise it makes

The hissing of the frying-pan
The ticking of the grill
The bubbling of the bathtub
As it starts to fill

The drumming of the raindrops
On the window-pane
When you do the washing up
The gurgle of the drain

The crying of the baby
The squeaking of the chair
The swishing of the curtain
The creaking of the stair

A stranger called this morning
He didn't leave his name
Left us only silence
Life will never be the same.

p.408, *Read Me*

Sound in my house

Listen very carefully and write down the sounds you can hear.

Planning a Poem

1. Think of different nouns which could make a sound to be collected:
   write them, draw a circle round them and then think of different onomatopoeic words to convey their sound.
   e.g.

   bring

   buzz

   ping — *phone* — *knock*

   ting

   plick

   blip
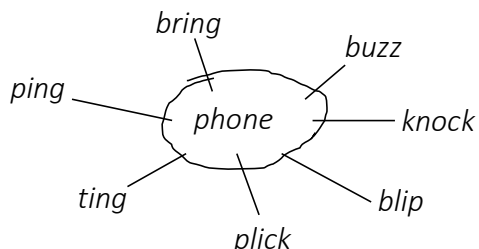
2. Start looking for potential rhymes with your nouns, e.g. *phone & moan, telly & belly* and consider swapping hard nouns for easier ones, e.g. *swapping 'porridge' for oats/bowl.* You can underline rhyming pairs in the same colour.

3. Choose your favourite onomatopoeic words and begin to develop lots of possible lines,
   e.g.

   > *The pinging of the phone*

4. When you have lots of lines, try arranging them following the pattern of the original poem (ABCB). You only need two rhyming lines per stanza so you can place your trickier words (*microwave, Alexa, tablet,* etc.) in the non-rhyming positions.

5. You could try extending some of the lines, so the sound image takes up two lines,
   e.g.

   > *The pinging of the phone*
   > *As the messages begin*

6. Read your lines aloud to listen for the rhythm. You may need to rearrange words or swap them to keep to the rhythm of the original poem.

The Sound-Collector – New Version

Carefully write your poem here. You could start and end it in the same way as the original.

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