What to do today

1. Read and listen to two poems
   - Read *The Language of Cat* and *Russian Doll*. Read each poem twice – once in your head and once out loud.
   - How are these poems similar? How are they different? Do you prefer one? Why?
   - Listen to Rachel Rooney (the poet) read the poems. Did they sound as you expected? Did you notice anything new when you heard them? [https://vimeo.com/162519257](https://vimeo.com/162519257)  
     [https://vimeo.com/162519272](https://vimeo.com/162519272)

2. Annotate the poems
   - Read *Useful Poetry Terms*.
   - Annotate the poems to show which of these features you find.

3. Write a paragraph about one of the poems
   - Read *Example and Guide*.
   - Plan a paragraph about some of the features that you found in either of the poems. Now write this beautifully.

Well done. Show your paragraph and the poem to a grown-up. Show them how your paragraph is like the Example one.

Try these Fun-Time Extras
   - Explore some more of Rachel Rooney’s poems on her website. Which do you like most? Why?  
     [https://www.rachelrooneypoet.com/about4](https://www.rachelrooneypoet.com/about4)
   - Try writing a new poem, ‘Language of Dog’ (You could write about the language of any animal.)
The language of cat

Rachel Rooney

Teach me the language of Cat;
the slow-motion blink, that crystal stare,
a tight-lipped purr and a wide-mouthed hiss.
Let me walk with a saunter, nose in the air.

Teach my ears the way to ignore
names that I’m called. May they only twitch
to the distant shake of a boxful of biscuits,
the clink of a fork on a china dish.

Teach me that vanishing trick
where dents in cushions appear, and I’m missed.
Show me the high-wire trip along fences
To hideaway places, that no-one but me know exist.

Don’t teach me Dog.
All eager to please; that slobbers, yaps and begs for a pat,
that sits when told by its owner, that’s led on a lead.
No, not that. Teach me the language of Cat.

p.10, The Language of Cat and other poems
Russian doll
Rachel Rooney

All you see is outside me: my painted smile,
the rosy-posy shell, the fluttery eyes.
A butter-won’t-melt-in-my-mouth-type me.

But inside there’s another me, bored till playtime.
The wasting paper, daytime dreamer.
A can’t- be-bothered-sort-of me.

And inside there’s another me, full of cheek.
The quick, slick joker with a poking tongue.
A class-clown-funny-one-of me

And inside there’s another me who’s smaller, scared.
The scurrying, worrying, yes miss whisperer.
A wouldn’t-say-boo-to-a-goosey me

And inside there’s another me, all cross and bothered.
The scowling hot-head, stamping feet.
A didn’t-do-it-blameless me

And inside there’s another me, forever jealous
who never gets enough, compared.
A grass-is-always-greener me

And deepest down, kept secretly
a tiny, solid skittle doll.
The girl that hides inside of me.
Useful Poetry Terms

**Stanzas** - groups of lines – a little like paragraphs

**Rhythm** - the beat of a poem – can be regular or irregular

**Rhyme** - using words having the same end sound, can be the whole word or the last syllable (*cheese/please*)

**Alliteration** - using words which begin with the same sound

**Onomatopoeia** - words which make the sound they represent

**Repetition** – repeating words or phrases for effect in a refrain

**Simile** - describing something, using 'as' or 'like'

**Metaphor** - describing something as *being* something else

**Narrative** – telling a story

**Choral** – designed to be performed by more than one voice
In the poem, ‘The language of cat’ by Rachel Rooney, onomatopoeia is used to show the sound that the cat makes. A good example is, ‘a tight-lipped purr and a wide-mouthed hiss’. I think the poet chose these words because when you say them you make the actual sounds that a cat makes so the listeners can imagine the cat. This makes it good for performance as you can say ‘hiss’ in an aggressive way and ‘purr’ softly like a cat would.
Poetry Writing

Write a paragraph about one of the features that you found. Use Model/Example to help you plan your paragraph.