

1 **SPEAKING** Discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you like poetry? Why?/Why not?
- 2 Do you listen to rap? If so, who are your favourite artists?
- 3 Do you think rap lyrics are a kind of poetry? Why?/Why not?

2 **2.28** Listen to an extract from a radio programme about the history of performance poetry. In your notebook, make notes under the headings below.

- Poetry in ancient times
- The advent of printing
- The Beat movement
- Open mic nights and poetry slams
- The origins of hip-hop and rap
- Spoken/Performance poetry

3 Read quickly through the article about a contemporary performance poet. Find three aspects of their work that were mentioned in the radio show.

READING FOCUS Multiple choice

4 Read the article again. For questions 1–6, choose the best answer (A–D) and write it in your notebook.

- 1 In Paragraph 1, the writer's aim is to contrast
 - A Kate's age and that of most award-winning poets.
 - B Kate's accent and an upper class accent.
 - C the range of experiences and interests Kate has had.
 - D Kate and other urban rappers.
- 2 In Paragraph 2, we learn about about Kate's attitude to spoken-word performance and that she feels
 - A its importance has now been proved.
 - B it should be about contemporary human relations.
 - C it isn't as acceptable as traditional, print-based poetry.
 - D angry that it isn't taken seriously enough.
- 3 Which is NOT implied by the writer in paragraph 3?
 - A Kate's achievements in poetry surpass those as a playwright.
 - B Kate is difficult to categorise as an artist.
 - C Kate has found the way to bridge the divide between poetry and theatre.
 - D Kate appreciates being able to exploit her many talents.
- 4 In the writer's opinion, Kate uses Greek myths as a basis for her poetry
 - A because they deal with difficult issues.
 - B because she read them when she was a child.
 - C as a way of reflecting modern themes and concerns.
 - D as a way of showing that modern life is no less dramatic.
- 5 Which of the following best describes the writer's impression of Tempest on stage?
 - A She is easily hurt.
 - B She holds the audience's attention completely.
 - C She is childish.
 - D She has a strong sense of self-belief.
- 6 What can be concluded about Kate's future from paragraph 6?
 - A There are several different options that she can pursue.
 - B Her future depends on getting new commissions.
 - C She will have a lot of competition to beat.
 - D She will continue to write even more experimental poetry.

5 Read UK TODAY to find out more about two awards mentioned in the article. Are there any equivalents in Poland?

UK TODAY

The annual **Ted Hughes Award** acknowledges emerging poets producing original, innovative works. It commemorates one of the greatest 20th-century British poets.

The **Mercury Prize** is awarded for the best album from the UK and Ireland. It is open to all types of music, including pop, rock, folk, urban/rap, dance, electronica, jazz, blues and classical.

6 In your notebook, write word families consisting of two or three parts of speech using the words in blue in the article.

NOUN	VERB	ADJECTIVE
<u>captivation</u>	<u>captivate</u>	captivated

7 In your notebook, write one word from your table in Exercise 6 for each gap.

Who would have ¹ ? that the 2012 Ted Hughes Award would be presented to Kate Tempest for *Brand New Ancients*? Not only was she the youngest poet to have ² ? the award, but she also uses forms, such as rap, of which the literary ³ ? has long been ⁴ ? . Her captivating and mesmerising delivery combined with her ability to use street poetry, rap and ⁵ ? to address themes of marginalisation and ⁶ ? has inspired a whole, new generation.

FOCUS ON WORDS | Collocations

8 **2.30** In your notebook, complete the collocations with one adjective from the box for each gap. Refer to the article for help if necessary. Then listen and check.

epic full-length immortal
raw ~~time-worn~~ warring

- 1 time-worn prejudices / steps / **tales**
- 2 ? soul / **truths** / words
- 3 ? dress / play / **poetry collection**
- 4 ? factions / **families** / tribes
- 5 ? **emotions** / materials / passion
- 6 ? journey / proportions / **story**

9 In your notebook, write example sentences using one adjective–noun collocation from each set in Exercise 8.

10 **SPEAKING** Discuss which artist from your country you would nominate for one of the awards described in UK TODAY. Give reasons for your choice. Then have a class vote for the best poet or album.