

“Instruments of Use” by Kate Wakeling

Watch Kate’s introduction to 3EE [here \(https://vimeo.com/418408494\)](https://vimeo.com/418408494)

Then listen to Kate read her poem “Instruments of Use” [here \(https://vimeo.com/418408653\)](https://vimeo.com/418408653)

Poetry has musical elements – it often has a rhythm and pattern in how it’s written and how it flows when we read a poem.

This poem mentions five different types of musical instruments – do you play an instrument? Which one? If you don’t play an instrument, which is your favourite and why?

But this doesn’t seem to be about playing the instruments or the sounds they make. Hmm, what’s Kate up to? Let’s find out!

Kate starts by telling us that there is plenty we can do with musical instruments if we “listen hard enough”. OK, let’s listen...

1. What does she say we can do with a xylophone?

2. What can you catch with a clarinet –

- a bus?
- a cold?
- a fish

3. What’s a trombone good for?

4. What can an electric guitar be useful for?

5. When might her trumpet be useful to you?

6. Did you listen “hard enough” to Kate’s words? There is a lot of playfulness in Kate’s poems – she enjoys playing with language and words, and this poem is a good example. It’s a good example of “word play” – taking apart a word to find smaller words that could be used to mean something very different.

Underline each instrument in the poem. What part of the word is she playing with?

7. Now **try writing your own poem** by playing with language and words like Kate Wakeling has. It is spring time and there is a lot around us to make use of. There are three lists below – choose either fruits, insects or flowers and create a fun poem about Spring – are there any words inside these words you can play with? Or can you use another meaning of a word that sounds the same (homophones like ‘pear/pair’).

Photography component

Spring and summer are wonderful months for photographing the rich variety of life – food, flowers, wildlife. Explore your garden or parks near you and photograph the things that best represent spring/summer to you.

Fruit

- pear
- banana
- plum
- strawberry
- raspberry
- blueberry
- blackberry
- mango
- watermelon
- grape
- grapefruit
- Braeburn apple
- Pink Lady apple
- Granny Smith apple
- Satsuma
- Rhubarb
- Pomegranate
- Passion fruit
- Honeydew melon
- Cantaloupe melon
- Pineapple
- Kiwi
- Clementine
- Orange
- Lemon
- Lime

Insects

- Beetles
- Daddy longlegs
- Shield bug
- Ladybird
- Crane fly
- Butterfly
- Moth
- Earwig
- Grasshopper
- Cricket
- Bee
- Wasp
- Hornet
- Wood louse
- Dragonfly
- Damselfly
- Mayfly
- Ant
- Silverfish
- Firebrats
- Stoneflies
- Marmalade hoverfly
- Tiger moth
- Stag beetle

Flowers

- Bluebells
- Cowslip
- Snowdrop
- Dog violet
- Cuckoo flower
- Poppy
- Corncockle
- Wood anemone
- Daisy
- Kingcup
- Hare bell
- Cornflower
- Foxglove
- Teasel
- Lady's bedstraw
- Honeysuckle
- Forget-me-not
- Primrose
- Daffodil



Instruments of Use

You can do all sorts with a musical instrument, if
you listen hard enough:

You can call a friend with a xylophone.

You can catch a fish with a clarinet.

You can build a skeleton with a trombone.

You can cover a street with an electric guitar.

And, if your guinea-pig has recently taken a turn for
the worse,
you're very welcome to borrow my trumpet.