



STATE DA VINCI DECATHLON 2017

CELEBRATING THE ACADEMIC GIFTS OF STUDENTS IN
YEARS 5 & 6



ART AND POETRY

TEAM NUMBER _____

THE POWER OF NATURE

BACKGROUND

Nature’s power has been celebrated in both art and poetry throughout the centuries. The power of nature has been explored both through a utilitarian frame, for example the ability to use nature for human energy consumption, as well as the power of nature in evoking an emotional response.



These emotional responses can vary from sadness and anger at the melting of a glacier due to global warming to the awe felt when witnessing the beauty of a sunset. These emotional responses can vary in complexity from simple emotions of happiness to complex emotions such as fear. Famous Australian poet Judith Wright in her poem “The Surfer” described the sea as a wolf:

*For on the sand the grey-wolf sea lies, snarling,
cold twilight wind splits the waves’ hair and shows
the bones they worry in their wolf-teeth. O, wind blows
and sea crouches on sand, fawning and mouthing;
drops there and snatches again, drops and again snatches
its broken toys, its whitened pebbles and shells.*

Artists and poets often use the incredible power of nature to represent how insignificant humanity can be when faced with its might. The power of nature can also impact on human lives through natural disaster events such as floods, causing a further shift in thinking by people. Humanity can also threaten nature through actions such as logging, pesticides and industrial pollution.

THE TASK

Your team must decide on a single setting in nature for your original poem and artwork. This may include a deserted logging forest, the ocean, a raging river, a vast desert or a free choice. Your representation of this natural setting must evoke a powerful emotional response and convey a significant message. The artwork and poem must be thematically, symbolically and physically connected, such as words that encircle an image. Please take note of the following:

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- The poem and artwork must be **closely connected** symbolically and physically.
- You have to use at least one of each of the following figurative devices: metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, alliteration and sibilance.

Please write your figurative device examples here (5 marks):

- Metaphor:.....
- Simile:
- Onomatopoeia:
- Alliteration:
- Sibilance:

MATERIALS

- Two A4 sheets of paper
- Two A4 sheets of cardboard
- Lead pencils, coloured pencils and/or oil crayons
- Sticky tape (Use sparingly)

MARKING CRITERIA

MARKING CRITERIA	POEM					ARTWORK					
Original interpretation of the task	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
Creativity of the poem and artwork	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	
The CLOSE thematic, symbolic and physical interconnectedness of the poetry and the artwork	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The striking use of words and images to represent nature and its power	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Conveys a significant message						1	2	3	4	5	
The 5 figurative devices – one mark each						1	2	3	4	5	
TOTAL											/50