English Literature and Creative Writing - for students who are 16-17 years old

Course introduction

Course objectives
- To understand the craft behind reading poetry and prose impactfully to an audience   - To be able to recognise poetic form and intention   - Practise the art of editing and selection when compiling works that make a statement   Each topic will include a mixture of didactic or learning-assisted content (video, text, powerpoint) and self-directed learning activities to complete.

Topic titles
1. Dramatic monologues and power play. 2. Conventions and transgressions in sonnets about war. 3. Lyrics of love and loss. 4. Blank verse and big stories.

Independent project work
This piece of work will combine all of the content covered in the course. Information covered during independent study, webinars and tutorials has been designed to help students achieve solid theoretical background knowledge coupled with data analysis and presentation skills. If you go into a bookshop or look for poetry online, you will find many anthologies, collections of poems that are brought together by an editor for a particular purpose, time, and audience. For example, there are lots of anthologies about love, for funerals, about illness, the environment, on dogs, or that bring together poets who are connected by all being 'new' or from a certain country or culture or identity: such as 'black women's poetry' or 'young poets of the twenty-first century'. A good anthology packages poems in order to entice readers to buy it, making an access point that meets their interest or need. Thus an appealing title and eye-catching presentation are important. You will create an anthology (or Selected Poems) that consists of poems that you want to share with others because they resonate with you for some reason and because you think people would benefit from them. You will think of a snappy title and write an enthusiastic introduction to explain your topic, your choice of poems, and your thoughts about the poems.