


Activity 1

An idiom is a common word or phrase which means something different from its literal meaning but can be understood because of its popular use, e.g.

Idiom	Meaning
Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable
Bite the bullet 	To get something over with because it is inevitable

★ Below is a list of idioms about doors. Can you work out what they mean?

Idiom	Meaning
as one door closes, another opens	
at death's door	
behind closed doors	
through the back door	
dead as a doornail	
foot in the door	
keep the wolf from the door	
knocking on heaven's door	
leave the door open	
show somebody the door	
slam the door in somebody's face	

Activity 2 – ‘The Door’

In this activity, we are going to think about the importance of fluency and expression when we read. Have a go at reading Miroslav Holub’s poem *The Door*. Then, follow the two links to listen to two contrasting (different) performances.

The Door by Miroslav Holub

Go and open the door.
Maybe outside there’s a tree, or a wood,
a garden,
or a magic city.
Go and open the door.
Maybe a dog’s rummaging.
Maybe you’ll see a face,
or an eye,
or the picture
of a picture.

Go and open the door.
If there’s a fog
it will clear.

Go and open the door.
Even if there’s only
the darkness ticking,
even if there’s only
the hollow wind,
even if
nothing
is there,
go and open the door.

At least
there’ll be
a draught.

Version 1 -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bazJvnuOLMM>

Version 2 -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011kx3r>

Make some notes on the poem after reading it for yourself and then listening to the two readings.

1. What did you like about the poem? What is your favourite line and why?
2. How did the poem make you feel?
3. Which line in the poem did you find most interesting and why?
4. Are there any parts of the poem that leave you with unanswered questions?
5. What questions would you like to ask the poet, Miroslav Holub?

Extension: How would you perform this poem out loud? Perform it at home either in private or for your family if you are confident enough. If you are feeling really brave, ask a grown up to record your performance and email it to me!