

### Knowledge organizer

Connectives to show similarities	Connectives to show differences
Similarly, additionally, furthermore	However, whereas, although
Also, in the same way, equally	On the other hand, in contrast

### Key vocabulary

- **Accountability** – taking responsibility for one's actions.
- **Alliteration**: the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.
- **Anaphora** – the repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of clauses.
- **Caesura**- a pause near the middle of a line.
- **Connotations**: an idea or feeling that a word evokes other than its literal meaning.
- **Context** – allows the reader to understand the writer's ideas, beliefs or time the writing was set in.
- **Discombobulated** – to feel confused or disconcerted.
- **Disdain** – the feeling that something or someone is not worthy of your consideration or respect.
- **Dramatic monologue** – a poem in the form of a speech or narrative by an imagined person.
- **Enjambment** – the continuation of a sentence beyond the end of a line, couplet or stanza.
- **Metaphor** – comparing two or more unlike things without using 'like' or 'as'.
- **Multiculturalism** – the presence of distinct cultural or ethnic groups within society.
- **Onomatopoeia** – a word that resembles the word it describes e.g. sizzle.
- **Oppression** – prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of power over individuals.
- **Pathetic Fallacy**: giving something non-human (usually nature) human emotions and feelings – usually the weather e.g. if it is raining, it could mean the person is sad.
- **Personification** – giving non-human things human characteristics e.g. the flowers danced.
- **Simile**: comparing two or more unlike things using 'like' or 'as'.
- **Subservient** – less important
- **Usurp** - take a position of power illegally or by force.
- **Volta** – the turning point in a poem.

### Contextual information you need to know

**Rupi Kaur** (born October 5, 1992) is an Indian born Canadian poet, illustrator, photographer, and author. Born in Punjab, India, she immigrated to Canada at a young age with her family.

She wrote *Broken English* as a Mother's Day present to her mum to show her love and admiration for everything she had been through and the woman she is.

**Marguerite Annie Johnson Angelou** (better known as Maya) was an American author, actress, screenwriter, dancer, poet and civil rights activist best known for her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* – the first non fiction bestseller by an African American woman.

Niyi Osundare was born in Nigeria in 1947. He believes that there is no choice for the African poet but to be political. He has accused and protested against generations of corrupt Nigerian leaders and this poem shows his directness and bluntness.

**'Not my Business'** was written in accusation of the murderous dictatorship of General Sani Abacha from 1993 to 1998.

General Abacha was in charge of Nigeria from 1993 until he died in 1998.

When he was in power, it was common for him to assassinate those that challenged his power or spoke publicly against him. During his five years in power Nigeria became a much richer, powerful country. However, his people were very poor and often did not have running water or electricity. It is estimated that he stole between one and five billion dollars from Nigeria. The fourth most of anyone...ever!

He was considered a corrupt tyrant by those who lived under his rule.

**Melvin Dixon** was born in 1950 and died in 1992. He was an English lecturer, author, poet and translator. He wrote about gay, black men, their lives, the stigmas, persecutions and difficulties they faced in America.

**John Agard** was born on 21 June 1949 in British Guyana. He moved to Brixton with his partner Grace Nichols in 1977. His poetry seeks to promote a better understanding of the Caribbean culture.

**HMS Windrush** was a ship that sailed from the West Indies to Essex in the UK in 1948 carrying Caribbean people who had been invited to come and who were coming to the UK in the hope of a better life.