

Liverpool

After Reading

Levi Tafari: Street of Hope

Project work

Read the poem by Levi Tafari called Street of Hope. Use the glossary to help you with the cultural background, and then with the help of the internet do more detailed research on one aspect of the poem, for example Liverpool FC or the Hillsborough Disaster, or the River Mersey, and prepare a presentation for the rest of the class. Everybody in the group should be prepared to say something. Then discuss the following:

- What was the most surprising fact?
- What was the most interesting thing you discovered?
- Has your view of Liverpool changed? How?
- If you visited Liverpool, what would you want to see and do?

Parallel writing

What's interesting about the place where you live? What stereotypes or prejudices are there? Brainstorm ideas together, and then read Street of Hope again. Using the structure of the poem (or part of the poem), replace some of the words until you have a new poem about where you come from.

For example, the title might be Streets of Change if you feel that your city or town is changing (it doesn't have to be the name of a real street). So you keep the first two words and adapt the third one so that it isn't about Liverpool any more but about your town or city.

More things to read and see and listen to:

- Read: The poetry of Roger McGough, Brian Patten and Adrian Henri
- See: *Blind Date*, presented by Cilla Black, the soap opera *Brookside*, *Scully* and *The Boys From The Blackstuff*, by Alan Bleasdale
Educating Rita and *Shirley Valentine* by Willy Russell
- Listen to: The Beatles (*In My Life*, *Penny Lane* and *Strawberry Fields* are about Liverpool), Julian Cope, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, Half Man Half Biscuit

Street of Hope

Stereotypes
Media types
The victim Liverpool

They painted a picture
Of a criminal culture
Uncouth and very, very cruel

In vibrant times
Poets created rhymes
And comedians carried the swing

There was MERSEYBEAT
The vibe out on the street
Yeah! Everybody wanted to sing

“You’ll Never Walk Alone
in my Liverpool home”
L.F.C. wore the colours of success

They would beat the teams up
While retaining the cup
Teams who visited left distressed

Checkout the TV Soap
Visit the Street of Hope
With two Cathedrals shrouded in fame

Newspapers from the gutter
Distorted the disaster
Liverpool was back in the frame

I know people love the accent
But then some pass judgement
They say Scousers are always on the
rob

“Well! there is a Scouser in town
so screw everything down.”
If you’re a Scouser, it’s hard work
getting a job.

Some visit the Albert Docks
Close to the Liver Clocks
And sail the Ferry across the Mersey

Checking out the famous skyline
Which is recognised every time
With an image that is Oh! So chirpy

Well! She is known worldwide
This daughter of Merseyside
With a passion that burns like fire

So the reason I write
Is to shed forth some light
And Liverpool you never fail to
INSPIRE.

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Liverpool RC Cathedral