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**Persuading teachers and students to teach and learn English through drama:  
Adapting and creating poems.**

This workshop is designed to persuade teachers of the English language who are not already doing it that there is no better way to language diversity than to encourage anyone from 8 to 88 to engage in creative writing. Workshops focus on the craft as well as the freedom of writing. Teachers will be asked to try it for themselves. If it is lively for them, it will be lively for their students - and this applies not only to accomplished language students but even to those with very little English.

In Teruel, you will be asked to choose a poem from a different time or language and update or translate it into contemporary English. You will then be asked to read it out to the group. If you have not managed a complete poem, you may read out a stanza, a line or a phrase that has worked. You may explain why you have not managed to write anything at all. There will be no comment: just the writing and reading out. After discussion following the first assignment, we will try our hand at others: perhaps interpreting a poem by acting it out, unscrambling a sonnet, or writing about an object in, say, ten different ways.

The rest of our time will be spent discussing how to run a poetry workshop. It is a matter of encouraging free writing but also offering reassuring "models" that develop the craft. Writing, reading out, listening: that is all that is required. No expertise needed in the teacher, no expertise in the students, though for both a jumping in at the deep end.

The Dean of a remote Chinese University who had us in to run semester-long courses terrified his language and linguistics students when he told them they would be writing poems and plays in English. After the course, when the best of their works were published, first on walls and then in books, he said that he was not only amazed at their productivity and originality but how little he had known his own students until they wrote as they did in a foreign language.