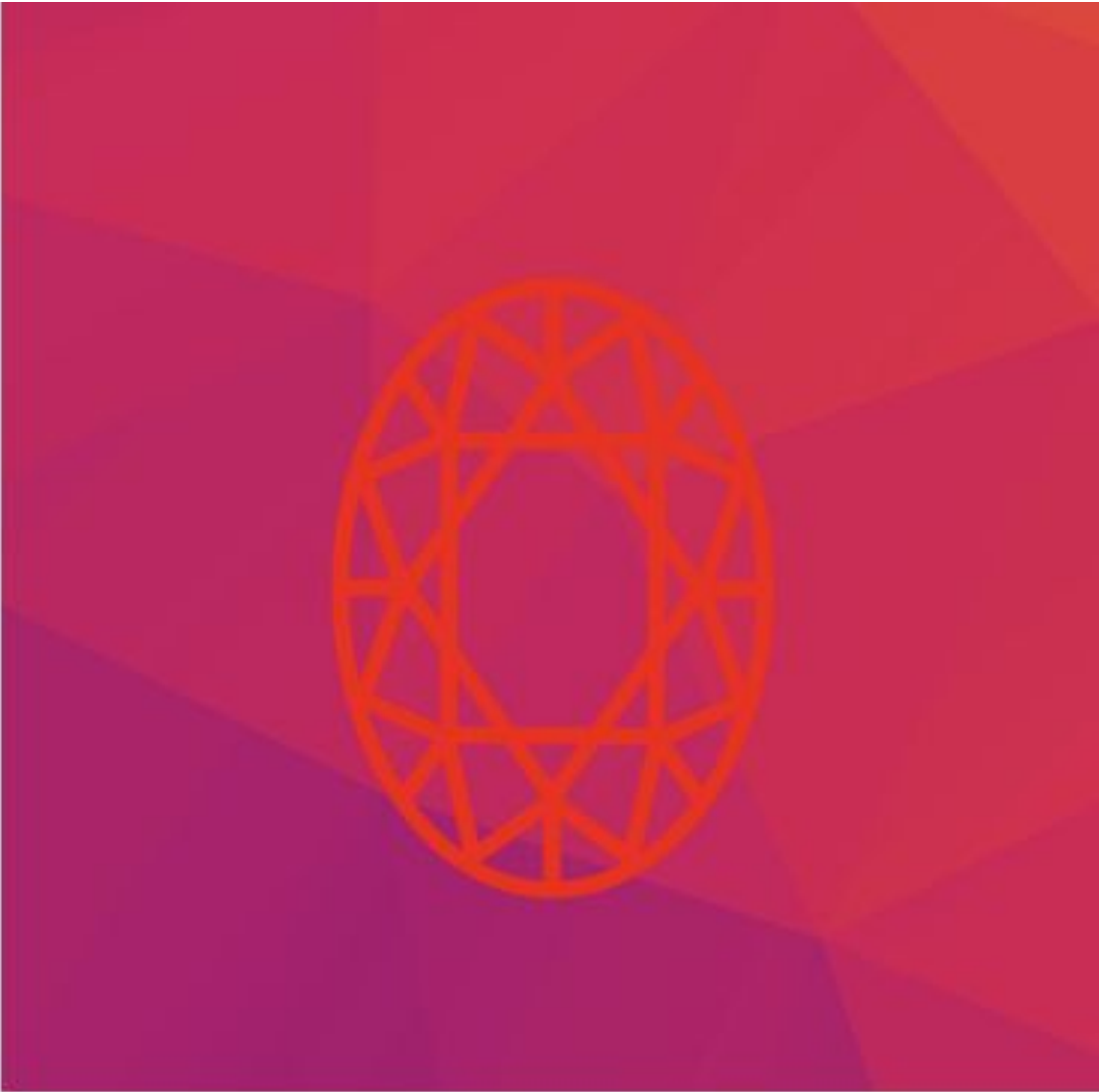


Great Oracy Exhibition 2025

An oracy way into poetry

Dr Julie Blake
Poetry By Heart



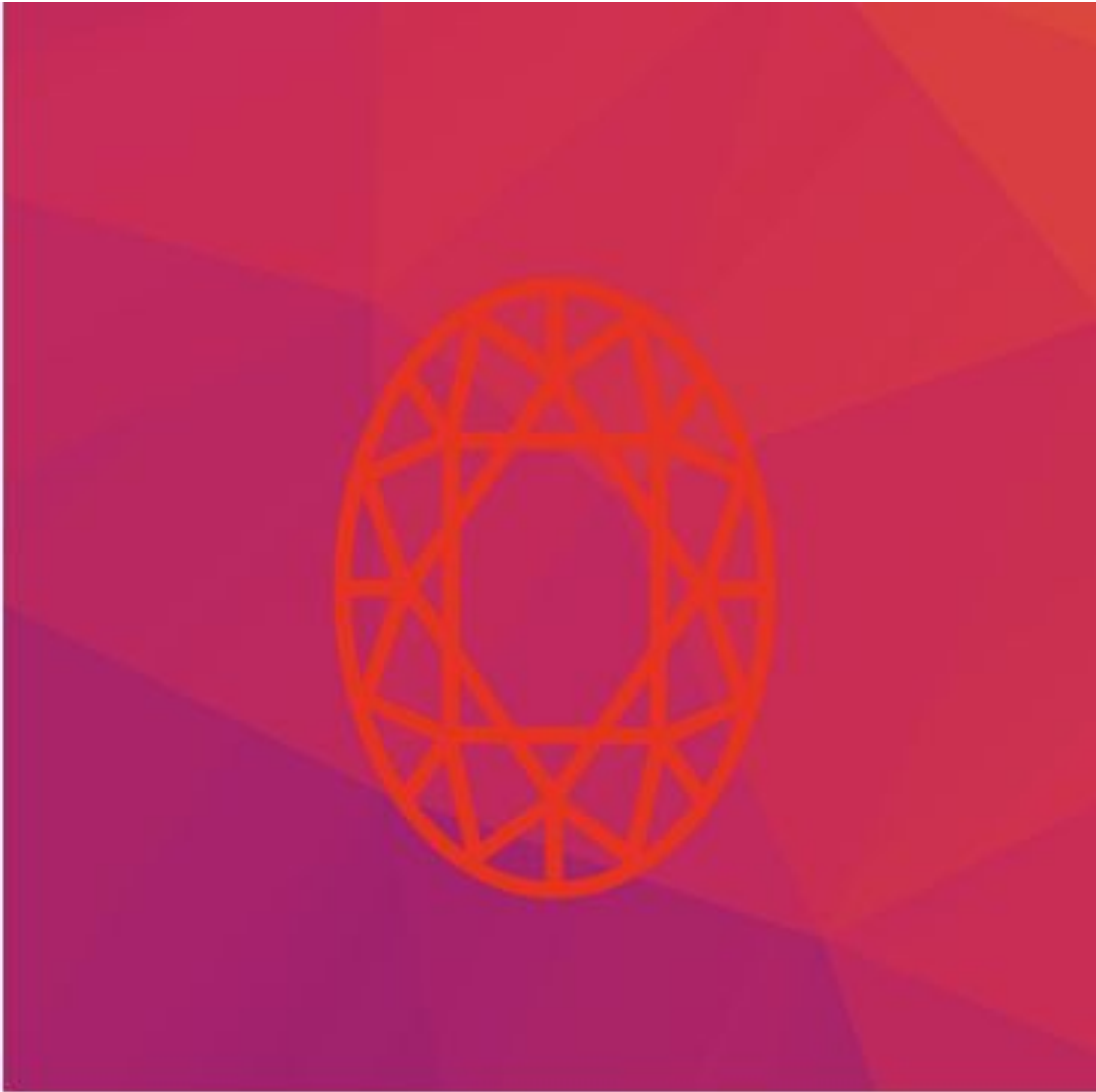


POETRY BY HEART

Choose a poem

Learn it by heart

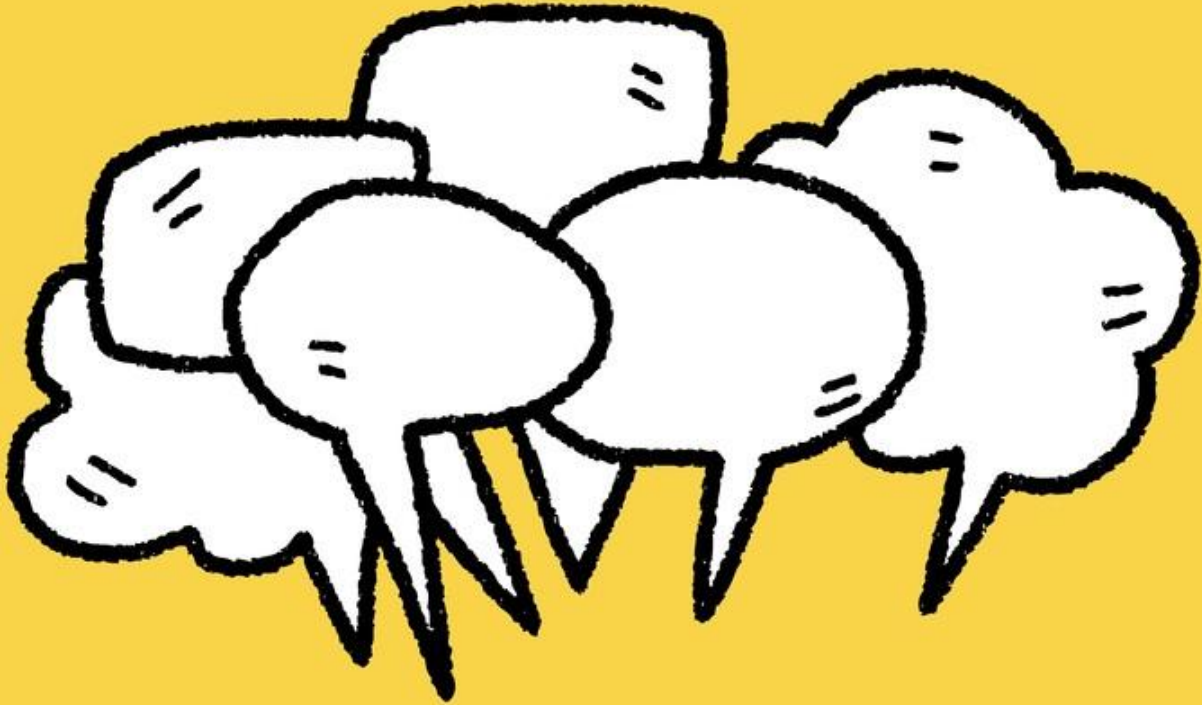
Perform it out loud



An emerald is as green as grass

By Christina Rossetti

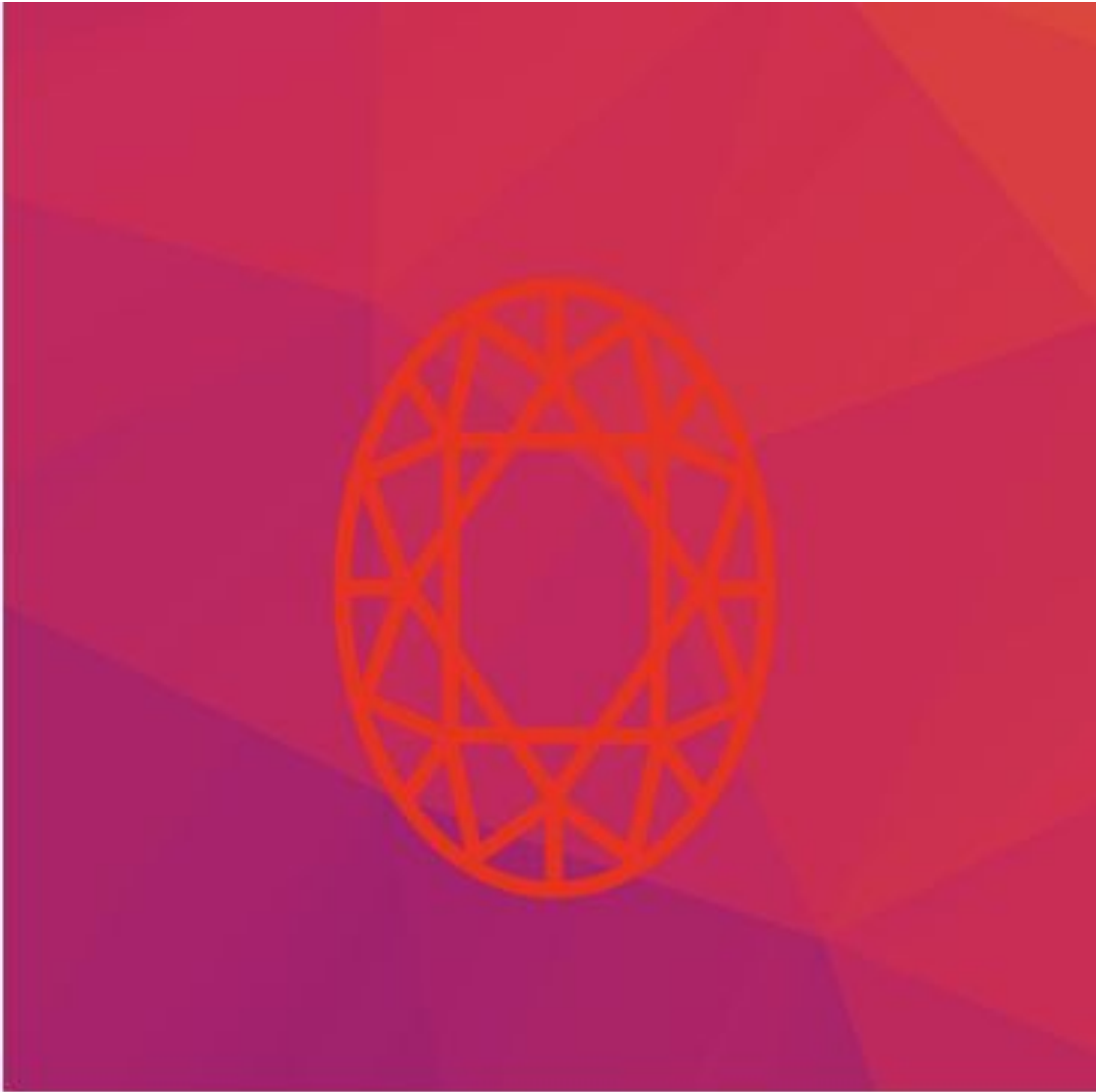
An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.
A diamond is a brilliant stone,
To catch the world's desire;
An opal holds a fiery spark;
But a flint holds fire.



How did the poem compare with your initial predictions from the visual cue?

Did the poem remind you of anything else you have read, seen or heard?

What can you remember of the poem so far? Any words, lines or images, ideas or feelings?



An emerald is as green as grass

By Christina Rossetti

An emerald is as green as grass;

A ruby red as blood;

A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;

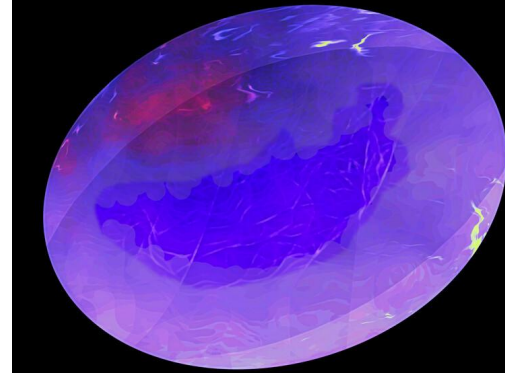
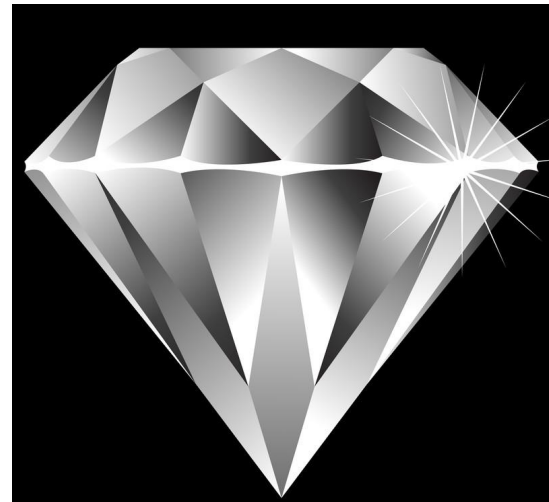
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,

To catch the world's desire;

An opal holds a fiery spark;

But a flint holds fire.





An **emerald** is as green as grass;



An emerald is as **green** as grass;



An [redacted] is as [redacted] as grass;



A **ruby** red as blood;



A red as blood;



A as blood;



A **sapphire** shines as blue as heaven;



A shines as **blue** as heaven;



A [REDACTED] shines as [REDACTED] as heaven;



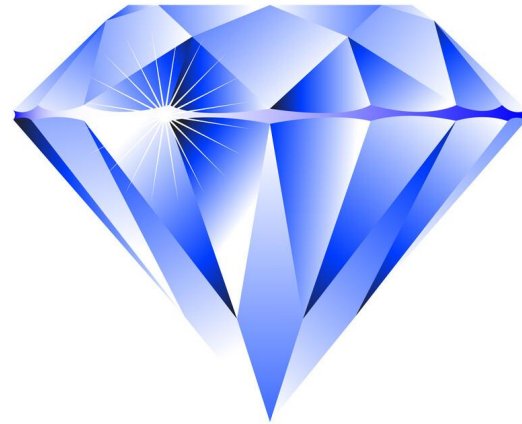
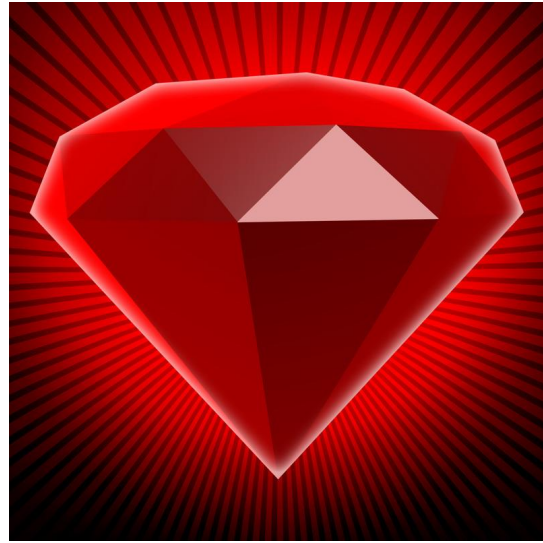
A **flint** lies in the mud.



A [REDACTED] lies in the **mud**.



A [REDACTED] lies in the [REDACTED].





A **diamond** is a brilliant stone,



A [REDACTED] is a **brilliant** stone,



A [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] stone,



To catch the world's **desire**;



To **catch** the world's [REDACTED];



To [REDACTED] the world's [REDACTED];



An **opal** holds a fiery spark;



An ████ holds a **fiery** spark;



An [REDACTED] holds a [REDACTED] spark;



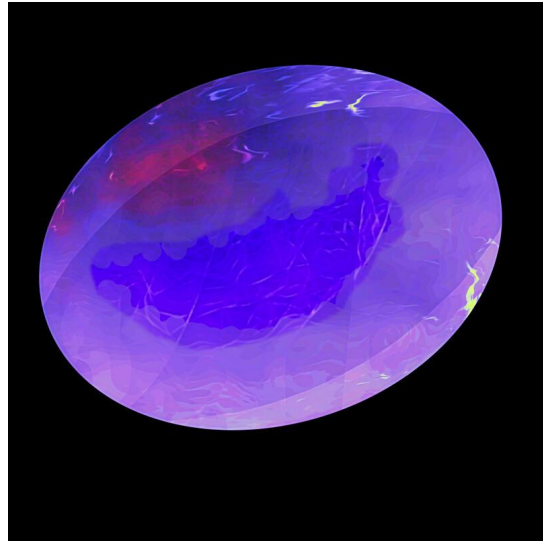
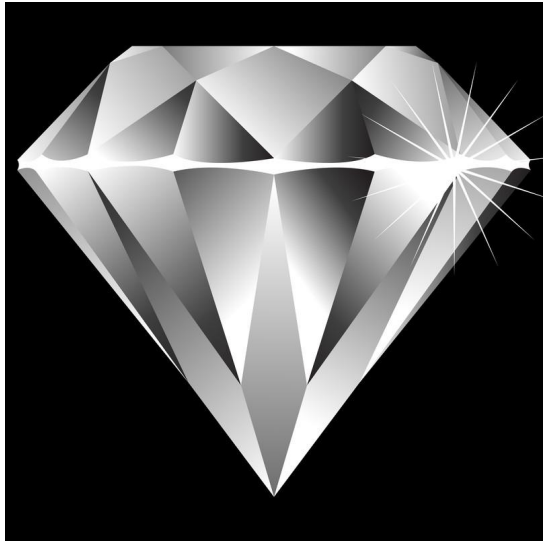
But a **flint** holds fire.

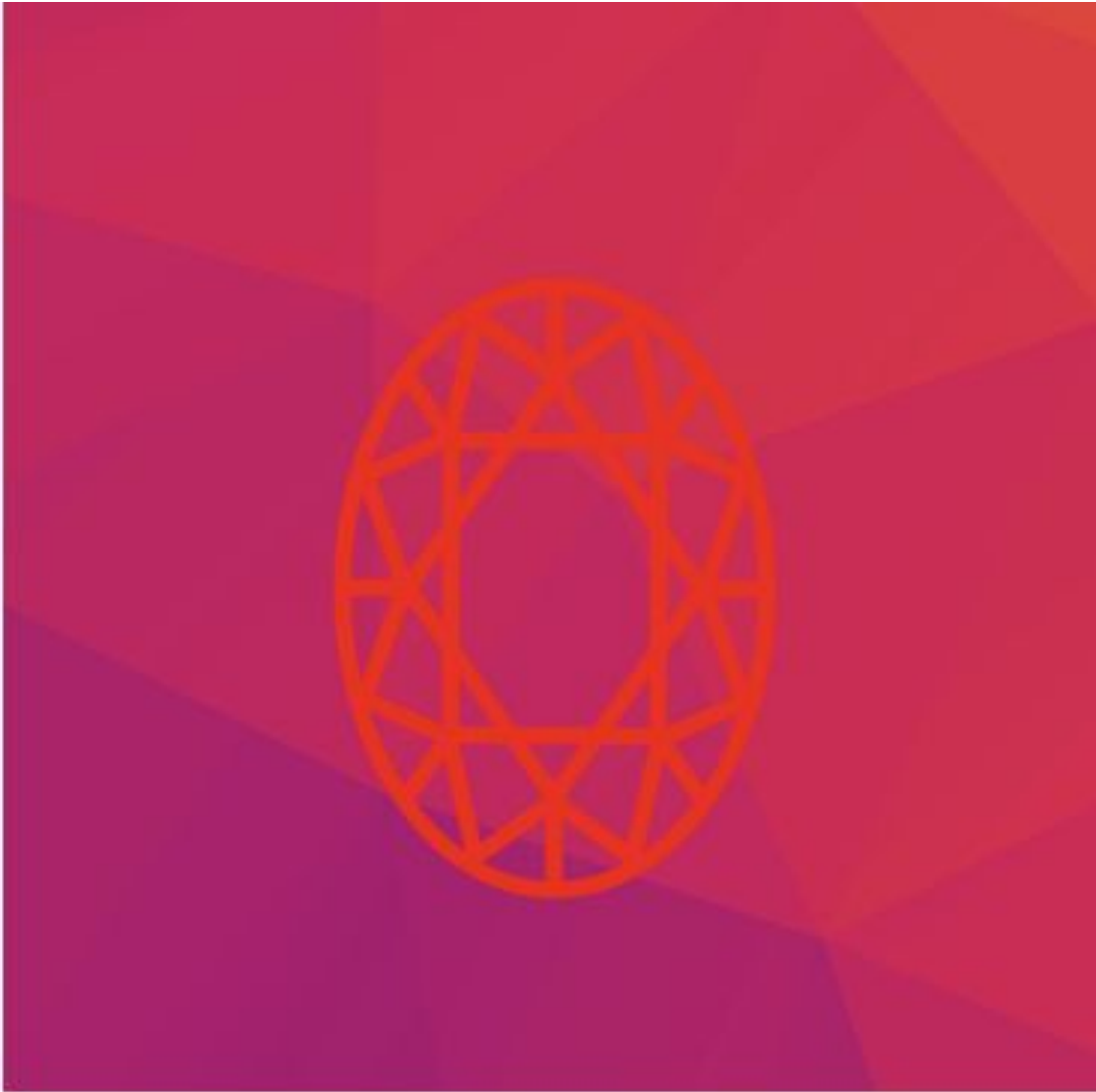


But a [REDACTED] holds **fire**.



But a [REDACTED] holds [REDACTED].

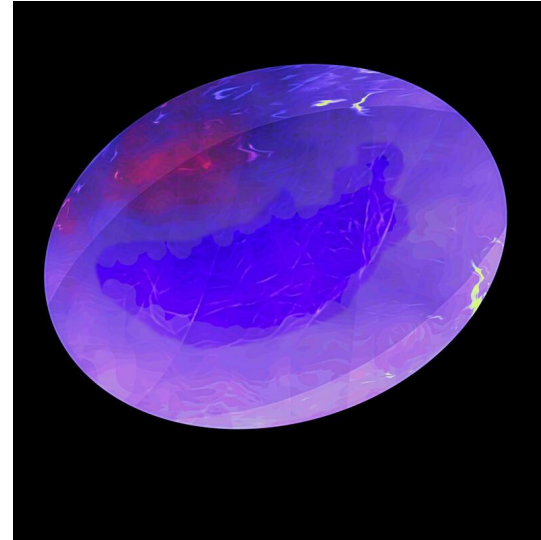
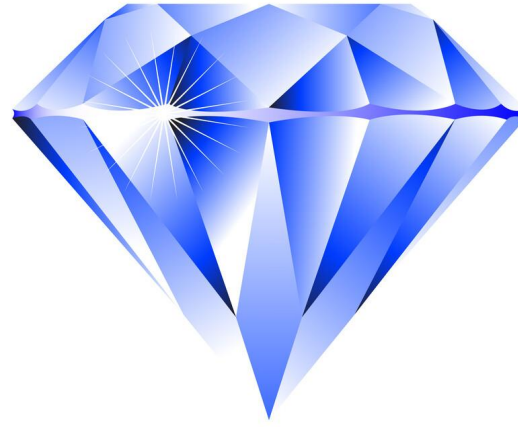




An emerald is as green as grass

By Christina Rossetti

An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.
A diamond is a brilliant stone,
To catch the world's desire;
An opal holds a fiery spark;
But a flint holds fire.





An emerald is as green as grass ;
A ruby red as blood ;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven ;
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,
To catch the world's desire ;
An opal holds a fiery spark ;
But a flint holds fire.

Rossetti's poem was first published in 1872, in an illustrated book of her nursery rhymes. This image shows the original illustration that accompanied the poem from a 1915 reprint.

Why do you think this was the image that was chosen to accompany the poem?



Christina Rossetti
1830 - 1894



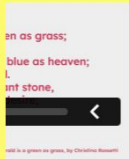
An emerald is as green as grass (1872)

An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
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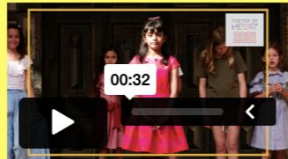
Poem © Out of copyright

Image © Christina Rossetti after Dante Gabriel Rossetti © National Portrait Gallery, London

Performances



green as grass
deo



Amrita - 2021 - KS2 - An emerald
is as green as grass (Christina
Rossetti)

For teachers

Word of the Week: Opal

A link to our Poem of the Week email for 'An emerald is as green as grass' (you can sign up for our free weekly email [here](#)) which contains a 'Word of the Week' activity for 'Opal', one of the stones mentioned in the poem

Resources for learning the poem

Resources to support teaching and learning the poem, including a digital version of the poem as it appears on the calendar

Christina Rossetti biography

An overview of Christina's life and writing from the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

'Sing-Song: a Nursery Rhyme Book' by Christina Rossetti

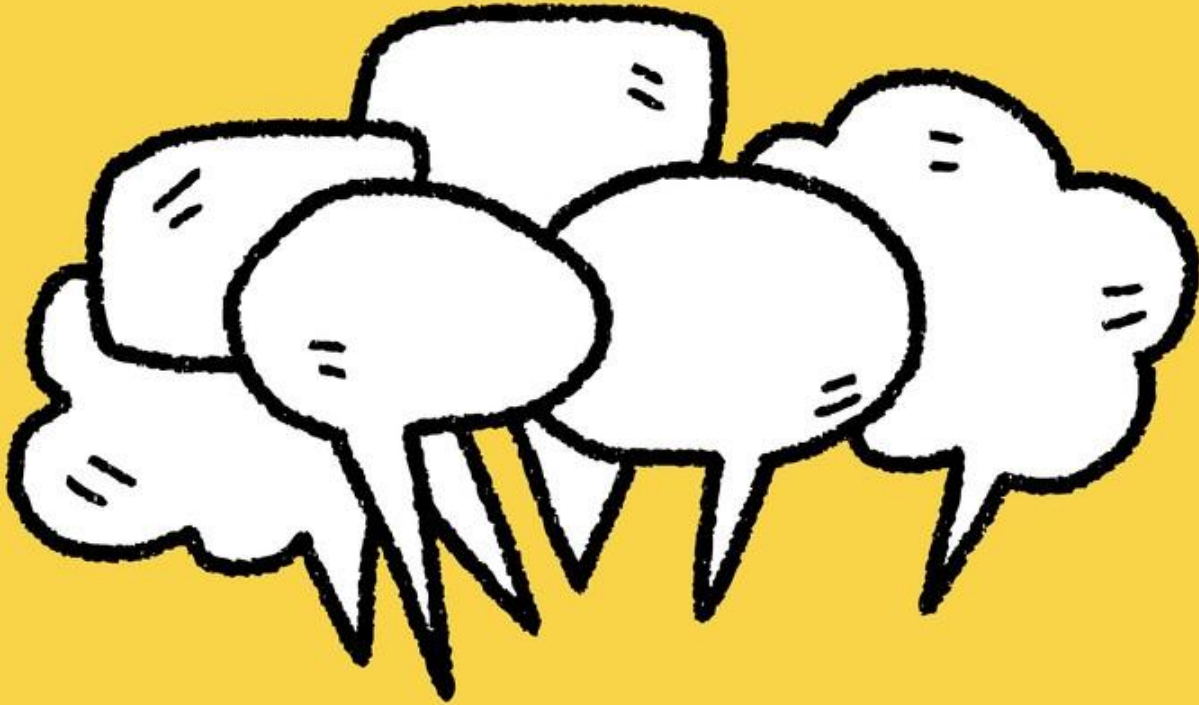
A facsimile of a 1915 edition of the book where 'Emerald' was first published, held by the Internet Archive

Portrait of Christina Rossetti

A drawing of Christina by her brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Amrita - 2021 - KS2 - An emerald is as green as grass (Christina Rossetti)





An oracy approach to poetry

Some of the things we've looked at:

- **Exploratory talk: predictions**
- **Listening to the poem**
- **Reading the poem aloud together**
- **Exploratory talk: making connections**
- **Valuing every voice**
- **Gemstone vocabulary**
- **Repeated, synchronised speaking**
- **Physical strand**
- **Social & Emotional strand**
- **Exploratory talk: flint**
- **Whole group poem speaking**
- **Exploratory talk: image prompt**
- **Discussing a poem performance**
- **Planning our own poem performance**
- **Giving feedback**

**Oliver
James
Lomax**

POETRY BY HEART

Choose a poem

Learn it by heart

Perform it out loud