



Roll up! Roll up for the races!  
Champion horseracing chases  
We've got  
Equine athletes  
With glistening eyes  
Football hearts  
And galloping strides  
Speedy sprinters  
Jumping high in the sky  
And thundering to the finishing line

*(Justin Coe and Y6 children from All Saints CEVA Primary School)*



## Roll up for the races!

Visit the Thoroughbred section of the museum and have a look at all of the information around you about racehorses. If something really interests you write it down in a list of fascinating facts.

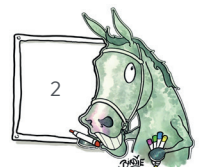
Working with a small group of friends have a look at your list and think about how to make each line sound a bit more poetic. You could use alliteration (for example speedy sprinters) or internal rhymes (jumping high in the sky).

Start a poem with the first line:

Roll up! Roll up for the races!

You could use this line again maybe at the start of every new verse or invent your own.

### My Fascinating Facts





## On Derby Day

Find the picture called 'The Derby Day' downstairs in the main gallery. This is a picture painted by William Frith between 1856 and 1858 and shows lots of different people, both rich and poor, who would have visited a race meeting at the time.

Have a good long look at the picture and all of the different characters in it. With some friends from your class choose a character from the painting. You can recreate the part of the painting they are in by copying the character's pose and those around them in a 'freeze frame.'

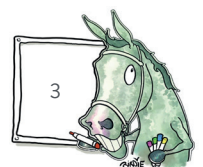
Write a short poetic monologue from the view point of the person you have chosen (a poetic monologue tells the reader what the person in a poem is thinking and feeling).

One Y6 class has already written a poem about a character- see if you can spot them in the picture?

**I am Cedric Phillips,  
Make me interested,  
You want me to buy your flowers?  
Well, you'll need more persuasive powers  
Than just a plea.  
Look at me, look at her! I don't care.  
I look better than everyone,  
Slouching here against the carriage  
Wearing my lady's scarf  
What a laugh!  
I am Cedric Phillips,  
Make me interested.**

Poet Justin Coe has written a chorus that you can use to link your verse with others that your class has written to make a longer class poem

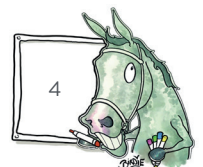
**On Derby Day, on Derby Day,  
The whole of London on display  
The whole of London comes to play  
On Epsom Downs, on Derby Day.**





## Write your poem in the space below

A large, empty rectangular box with an orange border, intended for writing a poem.





## Race commentary

All races have a commentator- a person describing what is happening. As the race gets faster and faster the commentator needs to speak more quickly to keep up. They will often get quite excited when the race gets near to the finish.

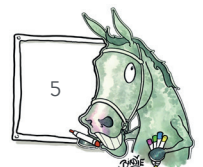
There are some examples of this in the Sporting Glory Gallery downstairs if you watch the short film narrated by Clare Balding. In the Thoroughbred gallery in the 'What Makes a Champion' display there are three races you can watch and listen to if you press the 'Champion' button. You will hear the commentator using different techniques to make it interesting. You might hear superlative adjectives (fastest, biggest, strongest), alliteration (using the same letter or sound at the beginning of most words in a sentence) and similes (comparing two things using 'like' or 'as' for example as fast as a train).

Have a look around the exhibitions and listen to some of the commentaries and collect some 'commentary catchphrases.' Have a go at writing some of your own.

By joining with others in your class you can build a poem out of your commentary catchphrases. Here's an example of a poem made this way:

**The crowds cheering wildly  
A horse with force  
Racing's new emperor  
A steeplechaser and a flat racer  
A gold hoofed golden horse  
An extraordinary legend**

**Collect your commentary catchphrases here**





## From Pictures to poems

There are lots of pictures and films of horseraces all around the museum. One called ‘A Race on the Round Course at Newmarket’ is at the end of the Heroes and Legends Gallery and you could use this as inspiration or choose another picture that you like.

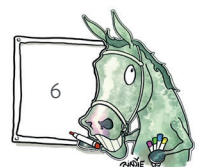
Choose one of the five senses (touch, hearing, sight, smell, taste). Now imagine you are actually at the race you can see in the picture- what would you see, hear, smell, taste or feel? Think about the first lines that have been written for you below (the senses have been a bit mixed up) and make a list of your ideas.

There is an example for each one to start you off.

<b>When I look at this picture, I see....</b> Hooves hovering over the ground	<b>When I look at this picture, I hear....</b> The shouting of the excited crowd,
<b>When I hear this picture, I smell....</b> The yuck of the muck	<b>When I smell this picture, I can taste...</b> Bitter defeat and sweet victory
<b>When I smell this picture, I can feel...</b> The pulling of the bit	<b>When I touch this picture, I see....</b> A tight pack of horses racing.

<b>My senses</b>
<b>My ideas</b>

Share your ideas with friends who have been thinking about different senses and choose your best lines to make a poem together.





## Write a birthday card to your horse

Red Rum was a very famous and popular racehorse. He won one of the most famous races -the Grand National- three times. In 1973 there was a different horse (Crisp) who was in the lead for most of the way round but Red Rum caught up and won in the last few moments. Lots of people still think that this race is the one of the most exciting ever. In the 'Heroes and Legends' display you can see this race and some 30th birthday cards sent by people to Red Rum.

Have a go at writing a poem to be written in a card and sent to Red Rum, a horse you love or to your own imaginary horse. The poem could be an ode which is a sort of poem written to celebrate a particular person, place or thing- you could really go over the top!

