

**Talking Points and Activities  
for 'The Lost Words'  
by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris**

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**How to go about the Talking Points activities**

**Read the poem aloud together.**

**To make sure everyone joins in an exploratory discussion:**

Start by asking everyone in turn to share their ideas ("What do you think?").

Ask each other for reasons ("Why do you think that? Please explain")

Listen carefully and think about what you hear

Ask encouraging questions to help others say more

Try to reach a group decision that you can explain to everyone

**Discuss your ideas about each Talking Point with your group.**

Does your group **agree** with the Talking Point ideas, or **disagree**,  
or are you **unsure**?

Agreeing, disagreeing and being unsure – with reasons - are all useful for learning.

## **Acorn Talking Points**

A sphere is a collection of many circles

Things are always made of smaller things

A group of birds is always called a flock

We can suggest lots of words for 'stream'

Near things, that we see close up, are easier to understand than distant things

Wind is just one part of weather

Some feathers are for flight and some for warmth

Stars are always suns, not planets

Being kind to other people is hard, and you may not get anything in return

There is an oak tree in an acorn

## Adder

1. Look up these words in a dictionary and try using them yourself:  
*bank; sine wave; susuruss*
2. Talking Point:  
‘For adder is’ means, here’s a word summing up adder behaviour
3. The poem describes five things about an adder:  
what the adder looks like  
where it lives  
how it moves  
how it grows  
the sound its movement can make

Watch a clip of an adder and make your own descriptive poem, perhaps using these five things to start with.

## Bluebell

Water is everywhere in this poem, but not in the wood

This poem is set on a clear evening in May

Flows and flowers are nearly the same word

Bluebells are actually nothing like the sea

The writer imagines danger but not for themselves

The colour of bluebells is impossible to describe

## **Bramble**

Bramble and briar mean the same thing

Brambles grow rapidly if left alone

We need cities so must control brambles

Brambles support a wide variety of life

Moths are drawn towards light, not thorns

Brambles do not threaten houses, it's the other way round

Blackberries are not meant for humans

## **Conker**

Humans cannot make tree seeds

Chestnut trees are everywhere

Conkers are for playing games with

They are shiny so that we notice them on the ground

We can plant conkers