

Colm Keegan



Colm Keegan is an award-winning writer and poet. He is also an experienced creative writing teacher and facilitator, passionate about empowering new voices and inspiring creativity for individuals and organisations. Colm has developed numerous creative writing projects for schools and colleges across the country and is currently Artist in Residence with Maynooth University. His latest project called Writing Home, which has been made into a documentary film, won a LAMA award for best education initiative 2021. His most recent poetry collection is called 'Randomer'.



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Podcast | Reflection Questions

You may find some of the following reflection questions useful. The suggested questions and activities below are a sample of how this podcast, featuring Colm Keegan, can be incorporated into your classroom practice. In adapting this resource for your students, you should consider the age and stage of the students within your school context.



Before Listening

- Colm Keegan is a poet. What kinds of poems do you like?
- Search for Colm Keegan 'Street Surfer' on Youtube and listen to the poem.



As you Listen

- Colm makes a comparison between kayaking and creative writing. What similarity between the two does he highlight?
- Colm has coined a phrase- 'Elemenopy'. What does he mean by this? What feeling does he say that this phrase captures?
- Colm talks about the importance of sharing the work and that this allows the group to experience empathy. In this situation every person is the audience and also the performer. Can you think of an incidence where you had this experience. Did you enjoy it? Why/why not?
- Colm remembers the importance of kindness that he experienced as he was growing up— 'the right comment that came at the right time...'. Can you think of an example where someone's kindness to you made a difference and gave you encouragement?



After Listening

- With your classmates, think about phrases that you use that you particularly like. Collect these phrases as 'saved talk' and talk about why you like these particular phrases.
- Using 'The Glimmers' as explained here by Colm Keegan—engage in a creative writing exercise.

Podcast available on Junior Cycle Talks podcast channel

