

## **Armchair Adventures Poetry Adventure**

### **Part 1**

#### **Intro**

Connie: Hello Adventurers! We're back! Welcome to the first episode of series three of Armchair Adventures. Remember we're releasing two episodes a month now. Part 1 today, part 2 in two weeks time!

Before we start this episode, we have some massive news. Drumroll please

*SFX Connie tapping her fingers on the table*

Connie: We have taken to the skies! Virgin Atlantic called us up and asked if Armchair Adventures could be the first kids podcast to feature in their inflight entertainment! So now you can go on an adventure with us while you're flying to another adventure in the USA, Africa, Asia or the Caribbean! How exciting is that?!

*SFX people clapping*

Connie: Right then! Well, I suppose we'd better get adventuring!

#### **Armchair Adventure Theme Song:**

*On an armchair adventure you can go anywhere you like,  
On an armchair adventure imaginations fly.*

### **Scene 1**

*SFX Connie's bedroom. Connie scribbling, tapping a pen. Sound of vacuum cleaner in the distance, a clock ticking in her room.*

Connie: (*Huffing and puffing, she's stuck with her homework*). You know what, adventurers? Our customers are the most inventive, knowledgeable and talented group there is. And I'm not just saying that! Today, I am after some inspiration... SO, for this episode, we are going on an Armchair Adventure with a very talented customer indeed. (*Style of Noddy Holder at Christmas*) It's Paul-iiiiine!

*SFX Phone ringing*

Pauline: Hello!

Connie: Hi, Pauline, how are you doing?

Pauline: I'm great, Connie. How are you?

Connie: Not bad, really. Well, to be honest, I could do with picking your brains, if you don't mind?

Pauline: Of course. What's up?

Connie: Thing is... I have some English homework that I have to hand in tomorrow and I'm not getting anywhere with it. I need to write a poem!

Pauline: Brilliant! What's it about?

Connie: That's the problem, Pauline. I've not even started it! I don't know what to write about.

Pauline: You can write about anything.

Connie: Correction, YOU could write about anything. I, on the other hand... am no Shakespeare!! How do you do it, Pauline?

Pauline: I just say what I want to say. I write about all sorts. Motherhood, Mandela, things that are important to me!

Connie: I never even know what to write in a birthday card!!

Pauline: Everyone can write, Connie. You won't write like me, same as I don't write like Maya Angelou, but what you have to say and the way you say it is important. And there'll be people who will connect with your ideas.

Connie: Can you show me the ropes please, Pauline? Talk me through the techniques of writing poetry?

Pauline: Yes, of course. I can do that, no problem.

Connie: It's not going to take us on much of an adventure, though. Do you think the others will mind?

Pauline: It'll still be an adventure! I'm sure they'd be happy to help.

Connie: Shall we get them on the line?

Pauline: Good idea.

Connie: Great, I'll dial them in now!

*SFX Dialling in customers*

Connie: Hello?

Everybody: Different hellos.

Pauline: Hi everyone.

Connie: How are you all?

Everybody: Great! Yep! Oh aye. Keeping well thanks, Connie. How are you?

Connie: I'm ok, guys. Just stuck with a bit of homework – and worried I'll get detention!

Customer: Anything we can help you with?

Connie: Funny you should ask, Ronnie! I've been having a chat with our resident poet, Pauline, and she's offered to help me write poems. I know it's not that exciting an adventure, I hope that's ok?

Customer: You have your work to do, we'll adventure again next week.

Everyone: (*Resounding agreement*)

Connie: Ah, that's really kind. Thanks guys.

Pauline: It's going to be fun, anyway!

Connie: Is it? Is it not loads of rules and difficult words that make no sense?

Pauline: Not always! Poetry should take the listener on a journey and create vivid images in their mind. There should be no need to work out what the poet is trying to say.

Connie: That sounds better than some of the poems I've read. Yawn!

Pauline: It will be a great adventure! I'm going to take you on an Armchair Adventure through poetry.

Connie: Great!

Pauline: But the thing is, we'll be travelling through the world of poems. So as soon as we land in a poem, we won't be able to come back until you've written your own.

Connie: Wow! Well, that'll be fine. It'll be easy when you've shown me how.

Pauline: You're sure?

Connie: Yep! No worries!

Pauline: Ok then. Let's go! Hold onto your hats!

Customer: (as if trying to catch up with Pauline) I'm not wearing a haaaaat!

## **Armchair Adventure Theme**

### **Scene 2**

*SFX Connie's bedroom. Sound of a ticking clock in her room, faint TV noise from downstairs.*

Connie: I don't mean to doubt you, Pauline, but I'm afraid I've not gone anywhere, yet. I'm still in my bedroom!

Pauline: We have to read the poetry. That's when the adventure begins.

Connie: Ohhhh! Gotcha! So where do we start?

Pauline: We'll start with one of my favourites, Carnival Jumbie, by John Lyons. Ready?

Connie: Ready!

Everyone: Let's do this!

Pauline: Jumbie jump high

*SFX: Magical sound that transports us into the poem. Like a whoosh and a sprinkling of stars.*

Pauline: Jumbie jump low  
Jumbie jumpin to calypso

*SFX Carnival sounds. Steel drums, singing, bustling of people.*

Pauline: Jumbie doin a dance  
in de silk-cotton tree  
he waitin for jouvay  
an steelban music to breakaway

Everyone!

Everyone: Jumbie jump high  
Jumbie jump low  
Jumbie jumpin to calypso

Pauline: At six in de morning  
steelban come out  
people winin dey body  
ole mas all about

Adventurers?

*SFX Ping*

Everyone: Jumbie jump high  
Jumbie jump low  
Jumbie jumpin to calypso

Pauline: Jumbie jump in a steelban  
an everybody know  
when he move he body  
he's like a black-smoke shadow

*SFX Ping*

Everyone: Jumbie jump high  
Jumbie jump low  
Jumbie jumpin to calypso

Pauline: Jumbie have no flesh  
he have no waist to hol'  
buh jus look how he movin'  
wid no bumsey to roll

*SFX Ping*

Everyone: Jumbie jump high  
Jumbie jump low  
Jumbie jumpin to calypso

Connie: Wow! We're at the carnival, Pauline! How did you do that?

Pauline: The poem! We travelled into its world.

Connie: That's really cool! Adventurers, let's be like the Jumbie and jump high, then jump low! Ready? Jump high!

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Connie: Jump low!

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Customer: This carnival is fun!

Customer: Amazing! Bright, vibrant colours, beautiful headdresses.

Customer: Wild, flamboyant costumes

Customer: The smell of coconut.

Connie: Mmmmm!

Customer: Jerk chicken and barbecue.

Connie: Yes please!

Customer: The atmosphere here is electric!

Customer: Makes you feel like dancing.

Customer: You can't help but move!

*SFX Carnival rhythms*

Connie: Let's dance to the music, adventurers!

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Customer: They're doing the Limbo! And there's fire eaters.

Connie: Eek! But it's safe to pretend. Let's pretend to eat fire, adventurers!

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Customer: Feeling hot, hot, hot!

Customer: There are giant, moving puppets.

*SFX Carnival float passing along*

Customer: And a carnival float!

Pauline: Do you see now why writing is fun, Connie?

Connie: (With a mouth full of chicken) This is the best fun!

Customer: That poem had astonishing alliteration.

Pauline: It does! Jumbie Jumpin'! Alliteration is when the poet uses the same letter at the beginning of different words in the same phrase. Like... Poetic Pauline Parachutes into the playground!

Connie: I see! Confused Connie can't create... poetry!

Pauline: You've got the idea!

Customer: Lynda likes licking lollies

Customer: Hazel hurries to Harrogate!

Connie: Adventurers, can you come up with any alliteration?

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Pauline: Brilliant. Ok! Are we ready to leave the carnival and adventure through another poem?

Connie: But this barbecue is so good..!

Pauline: Come on!! Let's try a few poetry worlds! What are anybody else's favourite poems?

Customer: William Wordsworth wrote my favourite, 'I wandered lonely as a cloud'.

*SFX: Magical sound that transports us into the poem. Like a whoosh and a sprinkling of stars.*

Customer: I wandered lonely as a cloud.

*SFX A breeze blowing through the branches. Skylarks singing. Slight ripple of water. Bees buzzing.*

Customer: That floats on high o'er vales and hills

Customer: When all at once I saw a crowd,

Customer: A host, of golden daffodils;

Customer: Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Customer: Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Connie: That was dreamy! I feel so relaxed!

Customer: I feel peaceful and calm.

Pauline: Wordsworth paints beautiful paintings with words, doesn't he?

Connie: It definitely created images in my mind. The host of golden daffodils beside the lake, beneath the trees. I can almost touch them!

Customer: Like a golden carpet!

Customer: All the different colours, green, gold and white.

Customer: Beautiful and hopeful.

Customer: It's rejuvenating.

Pauline: Although this poem is over two hundred years old, it still evokes the same feelings that I bet the poet felt when he first came across those daffodils! The poem also uses personification. Where human characteristics are given to something non-human.

Connie: I know what you mean!! Like the daffodils - fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Pauline: Brilliant!

Connie: The poem jumped off the page!

*SFX Magical sound used for words that will add up to creating the poem.*

Customer: The wind howled.

Customer: The thunder grumbled.

Customer: The lightning danced.

Connie: Adventurers, can you think of any personification in poetry?

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Pauline: They're all great!! Let's keep going. Where should we adventure to next?

Customer: I really like 'From A Railway Carriage', a poem by Robert Lewis Stephenson. Especially if we're talking about personification and creating images with words.

Customer: Ooh yes, let's adventure there!

*SFX: Magical sound that transports us into the poem. Like a whoosh and a sprinkling of stars.*

*SFX A train running down a track. Steam. The sound of the whistle.*

Customer: Faster than fairies, faster than witches,  
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;

Customer: And charging along like troops in a battle,  
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:

Customer: All of the sights of the hill and the plain  
Fly as thick as driving rain;



Customer: And ever again, in the wink of an eye,  
Painted stations whistle by.

Connie: Wonderful!

Pauline: Excellent! Did you spot any of the techniques used in 'From A Railway Carriage', Connie?

Connie: There's some rhyming, isn't there? Witches and ditches. Battle and cattle.

Pauline: Very good. Yes, there is rhyme and rhythm.

Connie: The train rushing along the tracks. (*In the rhythm of a train*) The rhythm of the writing conjures the rhythm of the train.

Pauline: Excellent!

Customer: I love poetry because it can mirror feelings you might not be able to express in another way.

Pauline: Absolutely. Which poem do you like, Linda?

Customer: I like Michael Rosen. He wrote a poem called 'Do I Know You?' It's about a very serious feeling of being lost. But the way it's written isn't too serious.

Connie: Let's read that!

*SFX: Magical sound that transports us into the poem. Like a whoosh and a sprinkling of stars.*

Customer: I'm lost  
I'm lost  
I don't know where I am

*SFX A washing machine going round*

Customer: I'm a sock in a washing machine  
A strawberry in some jam

Customer: I'm a letter in a book

*SFX some bubbles fizzing in a bottle*

Customer: I'm the bubble in some fizz

*SFX Pebbles on the beach being walked on*

Customer: I'm a pebble on the beach

Customer: I'm a question in a quiz

Customer: I don't know where you are

Customer: You don't know where you are

Customer: You don't know when I is

Customer: I don't know how you was

Customer: You don't know who I wiz.

Connie: Wow! That really does make me feel what he's feeling. I'm a tiny object lost in more of the same objects! Come on adventurers, let's roll around inside the washing machine like a sock!

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Pauline: Being lost is like being a pebble on a beach. That's an example of a simile. When you compare one thing to something else.

Customer: Like 'charging along like troops in a battle.'

Connie: Yes! I get it... like "Life is like a box of chocolates."

Pauline: I've heard that one before!

Connie: Haha. Ok, here's one of my own... Stuck like sweets in my teeth!

*SFX Magical sound used for words that will add up to creating the poem.*

Customer: I like that one!

Customer: As light as a feather.

Customer: As cold as ice.

Customer: Like two peas in a pod!

Connie: Adventurers, can you think of any examples of similes? Where you compare something to something else?

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Connie: Wonderful!

Pauline: 'Do I Know You?' also includes onomatopoeia. Fizz! That means words that sound like the noise they describe. Fizzzzz. Like buzz and hiss.

Connie: Onomatopoeia. Like... pitter-patter?

Pauline: That's a good one!

Connie: The sound I'd use when I think about writing a poem is "Ick!".

*SFX Magical sound used for words that will add up to creating the poem.*

Customer: Boing!

Customer: Clap!

Customer: Zap!

Customer: Moo!

Customer: Vroom!

Connie: Whoosh!

*SFX Magical sound used for words that will add up to creating the poem.*

Connie: Adventurers, can you think of your own onomatopoeia? A word that sounds like the noise it describes?

*SFX Ping*

*Space*

Connie: Boom! Adventurers, they're cracking!

### **Scene 3**

*SFX A washing machine going round*

Connie: Where to next?

Pauline: There are so many more poems I'd love to journey through.

Connie: Me too! I'm getting a bit dizzy bouncing around this washing machine now... I think I get the idea of how to write a poem.

Pauline: Brilliant! Are you ready to write your own?

Connie: I reckon so, yeah. I'll give it a go, anyway!

Everyone: (Supportive whoops!) Yes! Go Connie!

Pauline: It doesn't have to be magical. One of my favourite poets, Lemn Sissay, writes about what he knows. Rain in Manchester. The sunrise! You could write about something really every day, like sweaty socks!

Customer: (Disgusting smell sound) Pewee!

Connie: Then I'll write about Adventures! The techniques you showed me are really helpful, Pauline. **And** I remembered another that I learned in school. An acrostic! Where you use the letters in a word to begin each line of a poem. So, I'm going to call my poem Adventures... (coughs, ready to begin)

(Tentative to start, then gets into her flow)

A Armchairs at the ready  
D Deciding where to go  
V Venture to foreign places  
Even be a superhero!  
Next!  
Turn across the floor  
Underwater exploring  
Reef conservation and more!  
Everybody's welcome  
So we'll (uncertainly)... see you... soon?

That should do it, shouldn't it?

Everyone: Well done, Connie. Great work!

*SFX: Still a washing machine going round*

Connie: Hmm. We're still in the washing machine.

Customer: I'm tied up in knots here!

Connie: I don't get it. I've learned the techniques and written my poem. Why am I not all dry and cosy in my room at home?

Pauline: It was a good effort, Connie, it wasn't a bad poem. But it can't have been the right poem.

Connie: I just want to go home. I shouldn't have said I could write a poem. I can't do it. We're going to be stuck in the land of poems forever!

Pauline: No we aren't, you can do this.

Connie: I can't.

Pauline: Do you care about what you're writing about?

Connie: Care about it? I care about finishing it and moving on! What more can I do?

Pauline: You can connect with what you're saying.

Connie: Urgh! They're just words.

Pauline: Think about the other poems we've read. They made us feel something.

Connie: (whines) I know! But I can't do that!

Pauline: How does that make you feel? Now. What are your feelings?

Connie: (Huffs and puffs) It makes me feel. Grrr. I feel stuck!! And frustrated! I'm stuck writing my poem and I'm stuck in this world. I **have** to hand my homework in! I **have** to get home! I **can't** get a detention! Adventurers...!! What am I going to do?

### **Armchair Adventures Theme**

Connie: Before you go Adventurers, don't forget to follow or subscribe to Armchair Adventures. And if you're listening on Apple Podcast then please leave us a rating! It really helps! Love you guys!