



Unit 4 — Contemporary Poetry

Track E · Klasse 13 · Niveau E (Basisfach / Leistungsfach) · Abitur year

Learning objectives

- *I can close-read three contemporary poems (an Ocean Vuong-style lyric, a Warsan Shire-style political lyric, a Layli Long Soldier-style document poem) and identify form, voice, and one figurative move per poem.*
- *I can use vocabulary of contemporary poetic form (document poem, fragmentary lyric, prose poem, polyvocal lyric).*
- *I can write a 400-word poetic-analysis essay tracing one move across three poems.*

Lead-in

Klasse 13 returns to poetry with three contemporary lyric forms. Mr. Yilmaz set the question: *what is contemporary poetry doing that 19th-century lyric could not do?* The class spent the lesson noticing the document poem, the fragmentary lyric, and the polyvocal lyric — three forms that share a refusal of the unified Romantic *I*.

Key points

- *The document poem* uses found material — court transcripts, government documents, treaty texts — and re-arranges or annotates them; the *I* is ironised.

Practise

- Match: document poem → uses found material; polyvocal → multiple speakers; fragmentary lyric → broken syntax + white space.
- T or F: contemporary lyric typically uses regular meter; document poems are usually sentimental.
- Build 3 sentences applying contemporary-poetic vocabulary to one of the three forms.

Your turn

Poetic-analysis essay, 400 words. Trace the *ironised I* across the three forms. Use 4 contemporary-poetic terms + 6 academic discourse markers + 1 cleft + 1 quote per poem.

Reflect

- I can identify form, voice, and one figurative move in three contemporary lyric forms.
- I can use 6+ contemporary-poetic terms.
- I can write a 400-word poetic-analysis essay tracing one move across three poems.