

A stylized graphic of a leaf with a grey outline and a pink and yellow fill, positioned behind the text.

# GLASSHOUSE POETRY TRAIL

## KEY STAGE 2

THE BIRMINGHAM  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS  
TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

## Notes for teachers

The Key Stage 2 Poetry Trail is a self-guided activity in the four glasshouses (tropical, sub-tropical, Mediterranean and arid).

Make copies of the trail on pages 3 – 5 for the pupils to complete.

Laminated poems can be displayed in the glasshouses on request from the Botanical Gardens Education team. Or you can print your own copies of the poems (see pages 6 & 7).

There is a separate answer booklet that can be downloaded from the website [www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk).

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THE BIRMINGHAM  
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## Sub-Tropical House

We are now in the sub-tropical house. Find the plants behind the bars – these are carnivorous plants. This means that they eat insects (because they live in poor soil). Can you see the different ways that they attract and catch their food?

### Read the poem called ‘The Pitcher Plant’

This kind of poem, in which each pair of lines rhymes, is called **‘rhyming couplets’**.

 Write in this square the first letter of both Pitcher and Plant:

### Read the poem called ‘The Sundew’

In this rhyming couplet the lines rhyme whether you read it downwards or across!

 In this box write the first letter of the word that tells us how many flies were in the poem:



## Tropical House

We have now arrived in the tropical rainforest (the jungle), where it’s hot, wet and steamy. Can you tell the difference between here and the sub-tropical house? Look in the pool; can you see the fish, the Koi Carp? Watch the carp swimming past. What do they remind you of?

 Complete these **similes** to describe the fish. You can choose words from the boxes or think of your own similes.

**The carp are** \_\_\_\_\_

as bright as jewels

as scaly as snakes

as wiggly as worms

**They swim in the pool like** \_\_\_\_\_

ghosts

submarines

sausages

secrets

sharks

## Japanese Garden

Finally we're in Japan. Go and see the Bonsai Collection. What is unusual about these plants? Why do you think some of them are inside cages?

### **Read the haiku poems in the Japanese Garden**

A **haiku** is written in a special way. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line 7 syllables and the third line 5 syllables. Check that the haiku poems are correct by counting the syllables on your fingers as you read the words.

 Look for the large wind chimes in front of the shelter. Write the first letter of the tree in which the chimes are hanging:



**Now rearrange the letters to make a word!**

**THE BIRMINGHAM**  
**BOTANICAL**  
**GARDENS**  
**TURN OVER A NEW LEAF**

# The Arid House

You

know  
how

you get  
scowls and frowns  
from everyone  
for something  
really

naughty that you've done,

and you've been caught  
and feel this small.

Or smaller, small  
as this.

Well,  
that's just  
how I feel with  
cactuses.

All those thorns and prickles,  
They give you  
pointed looks

and  
snarl

'Go  
away,  
you weep  
and leak

You weak and  
water-wasting  
freak!

Why do you  
irrigate our

living room, when we already make

the desert  
bloom?'

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## The Pitcher Plant

A Pitcher Plant's one long green tummy  
and thinks that bugs and flies are yummy.

To stop its tummy getting thinner  
it tells them all, 'Drop in for dinner!'

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## Sundew

Sundew, one fly

Sticky glue, bye bye

## Haiku

Every bonsai  
dreams of being a tall tree -  
until the wind blows

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