

Opening Up.....

- Show the children this short video clip of a [city at night](#). It might be fun to also show this time lapse clip of the [city of Edinburgh](#) awakening one dark morning and then darkening again at the end of its busy day.
- Read together Andrew Fusek Peters' poem [Last night I saw the city breathing](#)
- The city could be seen as a living creature! Ask the children to talk for a couple of minutes to their partner about ways in which the city appeared to be *alive* in the film clips and then gradually fell *asleep* again at the end of the films as the music quietens. What man-made features were shown in these clips? What natural landforms were present?
- Watch the clips again if necessary.

Climbing Inside

- Print out the words of this poem and arm the children with two coloured pencils, one red. Ask the children to highlight the verb at the end of each verse's first line in red.
- Now using a different colour, ask them to carefully highlight words in each verse that relate directly to this red verb. For example, in the **laughing** verse, *giggles* and *split their sides* might be highlighted.
- Use **Pupil's Worksheet** to consider ways in which a city might be alive. Choose three verbs. **Breathing** has been started already as an example. The verbs used in the poem can be used (laughing, dancing, starving, crying, sleeping..) or exciting new ones might be preferred.
- Under each chosen verb, decide upon a couple of creative ways in which the city might be **doing this verb**. The city might be **dancing** in Edinburgh to the multicoloured blasts of Christmas fireworks or by the rhythmic swinging of trains on their tracks leaving Waverley.
- Allow for a fun, festive twist to these ideas if appropriate!

Building Upon.....

- Now it's time to put all these creative ideas into a poem! Use the hard work gathered on the **Pupil's Worksheet** to structure a beautiful poem.
- Start each first line as Andrew Fusek does in his poem. "**Last night, I saw the city....(verb)...**" Allow pupils the freedom to structure following lines in each verse as they wish but encourage them to include at least two sparky ideas that relate to the verse's verb.
- The last verse might be a sleeper verb but this isn't necessary. Go with the flow!
