

JOSEPH COELHO'S FIVE TOP POETRY PERFORMING TIPS!

1. Always warm up with a tongue twister before you start. Pause the video of me performing on the Tongue Twister page of 'Poems Aloud' and have a go at some of the other tongue twisters like The Slime Takeover and Red Robots.
2. Look your audience in the eye. Try and glance around the room and make eye contact with everyone who is listening to you. This can help the audience feel a part of your performance.
3. Try reading your poems using a range of techniques for example are there some lines or words in the poem that would sound good if you shouted them? Are there some words or lines that would sound good whispered? Should some of the words or lines of the poem be said using different character voices? Experiment and see what works best.
4. Costume can be a great way of bringing a performance to life, it doesn't have to be anything expensive or complicated you could simply wear a favourite hat or a scarf or even a pair of gloves when you perform, anything that makes you feel great. I once read a poem wearing a single white leather glove, I felt very cool.
5. Have fun. Poetry is written to be shared and enjoyed so have fun with it, if you trip over a word or get tongue tied don't worry, just take a moment and start again. One of the pleasures of hearing a performance live is knowing that it will not be perfect, that's what makes the live experience so special.

Best of luck,
Joseph Coelho