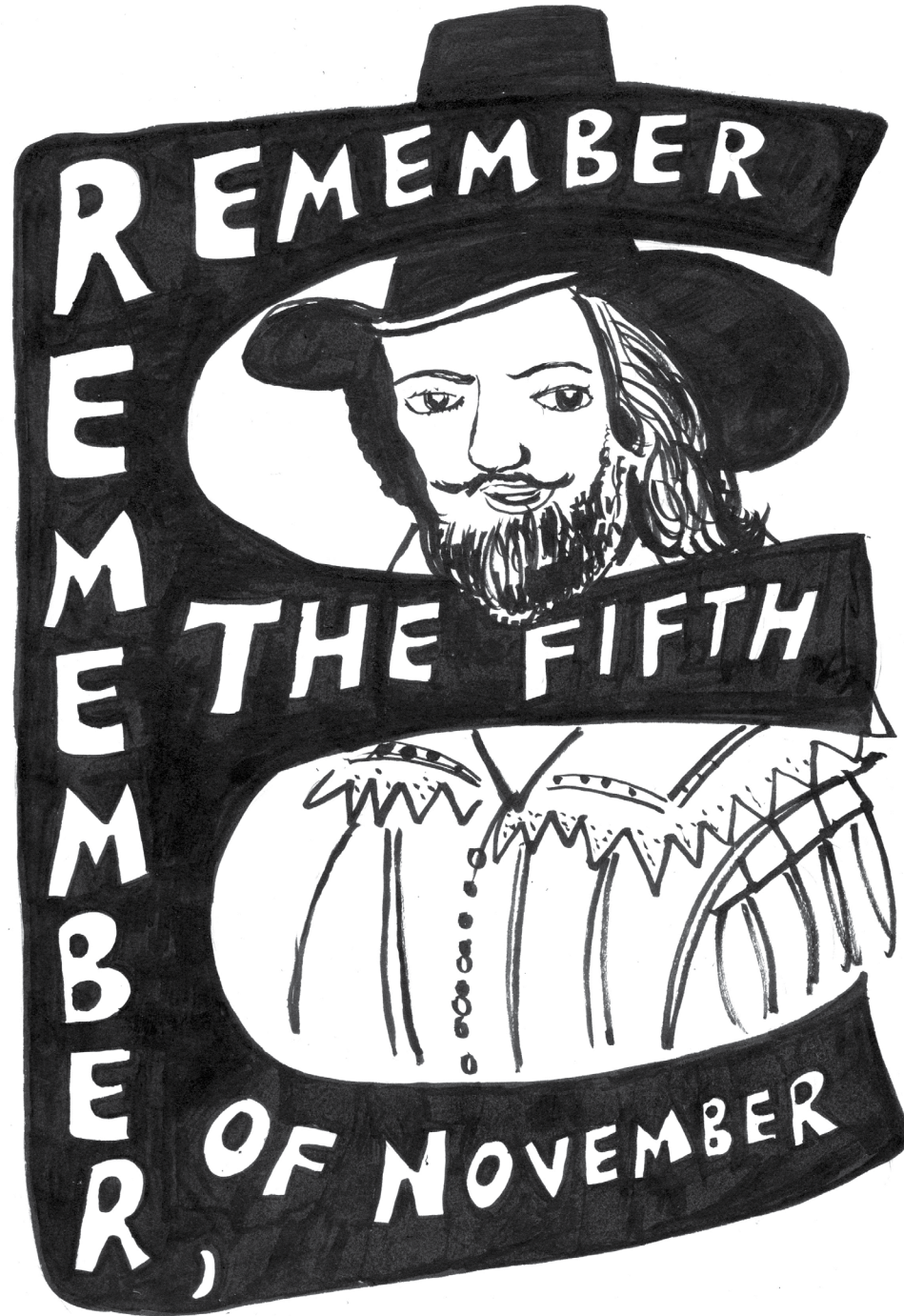


E

is for...



E for... Epitaph

KS1/KS2 activity by Celia Warren for Schofield & Sims, on behalf of Forward Arts Foundation

An epitaph is a short poem or a phrase which remembers a person who has died or something that has gone forever. The epitaph below is written in memory of a snowman that melted when the sun came out.

Dear Snowman by Celia Warren

As white as a cloth on a table,
As white as a cloud in the sky,
As white as the paper I write on,
As white as dots on a die,
As white as the frame round the window,
where I sit and look out feeling blue,
Last night, while I slept, you melted,
and nothing is white without you.

- Before writing an epitaph, think of something special that you have lost, (or an event that you will never experience again), such as a missing toy, a tree that has been cut down, or a birthday cake that has been eaten.
- Choose one item or event to write about and put in your title, for example, **Dear Teddy**, **Dear Tree** or **Dear Birthday Cake**.
- Draw a picture of the thing you have chosen. Think about how it looked, felt, smelt, sounded and, maybe, what it tasted like. Write a list of these descriptions, including as much detail as you can remember.
- Use this list to write a list of 'as ... as' similes describing everything that you loved about this item or event, for example:

As soft as a pile of feathers
As high as the London Eye
As sticky as a melted lolly
- Look at your list of similes and choose the five that best describe your item or event. These five similes will be the lines of the epitaph.
- Build your poem by writing the five simile lines underneath the title, thinking carefully about the order you put them in. Could any of the similes be improved, so that the poem has a stronger rhythm or rhyme? Could you develop the poem to include wordplay, like the last line of **Dear Snowman**? Will the reader be able to picture what you are describing in the epitaph?
- Once you are happy with the order of your similes, write the last line of the epitaph, ending with the words 'without you'. The last line should show how you feel about losing this item, or the event being over, for example:

And I am lost without you
And nothing's the same without you
And everything's strange without you