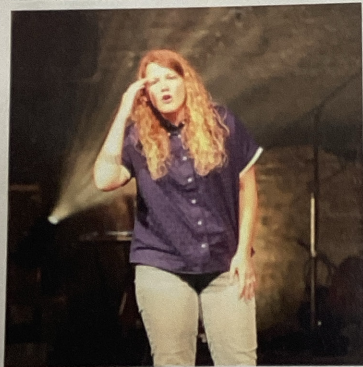


# 1 Tiresias by Kate Tempest (excerpt)

- a) Look at the images of poet Kate Tempest performing *Tiresias*. Describe how she comes across to you.
- She seems to be confident/emotional/in a trance/...



- b) Read the excerpt from the poem to yourself. Say who the protagonist is and what you learn about him.
- c) **11+** In a double circle, tell your partners about your impression of the protagonist. Choose one verse to illustrate your ideas.
- d) Watch a video of Kate Tempest performing the poem. Compare the experience of reading a text and watching it being performed.

Picture the scene:

A boy of fifteen.  
With the usual dreams  
And the usual routine.

5 Heading to school with a dullness inside  
Borne of desires left unsatisfied.

Is he stifled or is he just  
Learning the ways of his times?  
Give him limbs that are awkward  
10 But know how to climb.

Give him a gait that you know.  
Give him hopes.  
His days are so painfully slow,  
But he copes.

15 This morning  
He wakes to the same old alarm.  
Slumps in the shower  
Like a frog in the rain.  
Winks at the mirror – does cool, does charm.  
20 Shaves soft skin.  
Nods at the pain.  
No hair yet. Soon though.

Headphones on.  
Last half of last night's joint in his lips.  
25 Bass so loud it feels like a movie.  
Scuffing his trainers.  
Swinging his hips.

They're always laughing,  
The kids at the bus stop.  
30 He tries to ignore them,  
But it doesn't help.

Hood up, he walks past them.  
Blowing out smoke rings.  
Singing out Wu-Tang.  
35 Hating himself.

dullness Mattigkeit borne of ... geboren aus ...  
desire Wunsch, Verlangen unsatisfied unbefriedigt  
stifle unterdrücken; ersticken limbs Glieder gait Gang  
painfully furchtbar, äußerst cope zurechtkommen,  
klarkommen slump zusammensacken wink zwinkern  
do charm auf Charme machen