**Frost or Ice?**

**Learning Intention:** We are learning to analyse how a poem’s meaning can change based on tone. We are also learning to use connotations to interpret word choices.

**Instructions:** *First Ice* is another version of Andrei Voznesensky's poem, produced by a different translator,

George Reavey. In his translation, Reavey has chosen slightly different words and phrases for his English version of the poem. These differences can affect the way readers respond to the text.

Read George Reavey’s version of the poem, then do the activities that follow.

FIRST ICE

A girl freezes in a telephone booth.

In her draughty overcoat she hides A face all smeared in lipstick and tears.

She breathes on her thin palms.

Her fingers are icicles. She wears ear-rings.

She'll have to walk home alone, Along the ice-bound street.

First ice. The very first time.

The first ice of telephone phrases.

Frozen tears glisten on her cheeks — The First ice of human hurt.

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| Andrei Voznesensky  (Trans. George Reavey) |

Task: Make a table on the other side of this page which analyses the following:

1. You will have noticed a number of differences between the two translations. Look for places where the words or phrases differ between the two texts and decide quickly which wordings you think are better.

2. Write your own version using the choices you like best – you can put in your own words if you don’t like either.

3. How does diction (word choice) change the tone of the poem? Use examples and explain their impact.

4. Compare your choices with the person next to you. Discuss/debate the reasons for the choices you have made.