 Emma Jones listening activity

You are about to hear an interview with the poet, Emma Jones, author of ‘The Striped World’ talk about her work.

You will hear the recording twice and answer the questions below.

[Interview with Emma Jones - Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkp0c3B-SvE)

1. What did Emma do when she was eight years old that inspired her writing of poetry?
2. Why does Emma think that it is good to keep “that part of yourself thinking that you’re just a kid writing in your room?”
3. Explain Jones’ first influences and how does she feel about them?
4. Why has Emma always had a divided family?
5. Emma Jones explains how she has been inspired by what she has read, but also by an online community of poets. What does she say is a benefit of this?

Extension question: what tone does Emma Jones use to discuss her poetry? Explain the impact on the audience.

Notes:

Sample answers:

1. Jones would wake up early in the mornings and found some books of poetry, kids anthologies, and took to it straight away. She went from there, writing her first poem.
2. Jones thinks it’s good to keep the mentality of a child writing in their room because then you write what you’re very much writing what you feel impelled to write, rather than what other people think you should potentially write.
3. Australian ballad poetry from the 19th Century, reigning in wild horses, ships, religious rhymes. Jones feels grateful her poetry is different from this style.
4. Emma’s mother was from Liverpool and father was from Australia. Jones grew up in Australia however has always had a sensibility about being divided, slightly in two places.
5. Jones says that you can have a poetry community that is electronically connected as well as connected through writing and poetry which has more fluid borders than countries.
6. The poems in ‘The Striped World’ deal with her time growing up in Australia, preoccupied with space and cities, how memory creates our sense of history, also about her experience in the US exploring Cape Cod. She also wrote many while studying in Britain.

Extension question: Emma Jones’ enthusiastic yet calm tone conveys her interest at discussing her poetry. She uses an even pace and is at times quite earnest in explaining the process of her composing poems. The impacts the audience by allowing them to understand how devoted she is to the process of writing and how committed she is to being a poet.