

I found it was important to write the Pakistan poems because I was getting in touch with my background. And maybe there's a bit of a message behind the poems about something I went through, that I want to maybe open a few doors if possible.

- 3 Talk to someone who has moved to another country. Ask them about how they feel about where they come from. Read about other people's experiences of moving from one country to another.
- 4 If you or your family have moved from one country to another, think about your feelings about the original country. If you have not, talk to someone you know who has moved from one country to another and ask them about how they feel about the place that their family came from, or read about other people's experiences.

### ▼ 'AN UNKNOWN GIRL' BY MONIZA ALVI

**bazaar** A marketplace.

**hennaing** A method of applying a temporary tattoo using a strong reddish-brown dye (henna).

**kameez** A loose-fitting tunic.

**Miss India** The national winner in a Miss World beauty contest.

In the evening **bazaar**  
 studded with neon  
 an unknown girl  
 is **hennaing** my hand.  
 She squeezes a wet brown line 5  
 from a nozzle.  
 She is icing my hand,  
 which she steadies with hers  
 on her satin-peach knee.  
 In the evening **bazaar** 10  
 for a few rupees  
 an unknown girl  
 is hennaing my hand.  
 As a little air catches  
 my shadow-stitched **kameez** 15  
 a peacock spreads its lines  
 across my palm.  
 Colours leave the street  
 float up in balloons.  
 Dummies in shop-fronts 20  
 tilt and stare  
 with their Western perms.  
 Banners for **Miss India** 1993,

