Using poetry to understand the meaning of compassionate practice
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Poetry, written by our students, was used to explore the meaning of compassionate practice. The poems were discussed, to elicit the main features of the concept, as described by them.

Poetry Excerpts
“I will never forget you.
My heart aches for your loved ones. What you, and they, must have been going through.
I am crying for fear that you left feeling some form of discomfort, or pain or loneliness”

“..compassion is pushing yourself to learn more
which in turn can help, cure and support others…”

Evaluation
“It made me think about things from a patients point of view”

“I really enjoyed writing it as it made me feel I understood the topic more”

Implications for Practice
➢ Understanding their own meaning of compassion enabled our student nurses to explore how they could be compassionate in clinical practice.
➢ This work represents a creative approach to learning about compassionate practice, which promotes the development of self awareness and sensitivity to the needs of others.