

Look at the word definitions on
the following page and think
about which word(s) they
describe:

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A fool or jester

A person of no account;
despicable or contemptible

A petty criminal or thug

A man without refinement or
culture

A coward

A countryman, rustic or peasant

A young male companion of a
traveller

A fool or jester

A person of no account;
despicable or contemptible

A petty criminal or thug

A coward

A man without refinement or
culture

A countryman, rustic or peasant

A young male companion of a
tramp

Do you have any ideas which word(s) these
definitions describe?

Clue: all these definitions describe two words in the
Oxford English Dictionary.

Clown

A fool or jester

A man without refinement or culture

A countryman, rustic or peasant

Punk

A person of no account; despicable or contemptible

A petty criminal or thug

A coward

A young male companion of a tramp

Are you surprised by these definitions?

What is your own understanding of the word 'punk'?

Maybe this is similar to your understanding of the word 'punk':

<http://www.freewebs.com/uxu/images/punks.jpg>

<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-images/Education/Pix/pictures/2008/06/16/punks460.jpg>

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Thinking then of the definitions of 'clown' and 'punk' and our own understanding of the words ...

Why would someone call their poem 'The Clown Punk'?

What do you think a poem with this title might be about? What does the title suggest to you?

Now listen to the poem, 'The Clown Punk' by Simon Armitage.