HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STEPHEN SPENDER PRIZE
FOR MFL, ENGLISH AND EAL TEACHERS

The prize is free to enter for all young people, in 3 categories: 14-and-under, 16-and-under, 18-and-under. It’s accessible to all, regardless of linguistic skill or background.

Students translate a poem out of any language into English, and write a short commentary about it. It is task-based and can be completed independently, so is ideal for remote-learning. The deadline is 17 July, so there’s plenty of time to get involved.

Group entries are permitted, so students can work together on a translation if they prefer.

Here are some options for getting involved:

❖ INFORM YOUR STUDENTS
   You can simply send these links to your students and encourage them to enter independently:
   www.stephen-spender.org/spender_prize.html
   www.multilingualcreativity.org.uk/resources

❖ SHARE OUR ‘POETRY TRANSLATION CASTS’ – MINI TRANSLATION TUTORIALS
   Several translators and teachers have produced mini translation tutorials to inspire young translators. These are available for French, German, Spanish and Polish:
   www.multilingualcreativity.org.uk/poetry-translation-casts

❖ HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO PICK A POEM TO TRANSLATE
   You can refer your students to our brand new booklets of suggested poems, which include lots of poems that have never been translated before. There is a booklet that is especially for primary pupils too. www.multilingualcreativity.org.uk/suggested-poems-stephen-spender-prize

❖ GIVE YOUR OWN VIRTUAL TRANSLATION TUTORIAL
   You can develop your own mini tutorial based on our examples, and send it to your pupils as part of their remote-learning plan. This is what Katrina Barnes, an MFL teacher in Cambridgeshire, has done for her pupils.
ENTER YOUR PUPILS FOR THE PRIZE
As noted in 1. above, pupils can enter themselves without any input from you. However, if you wish to treat this as a class project and then submit all entries to us, please drop us a line at prize@stephen-spender.org and we’ll assist you.

ENCOURAGE YOUR POLISH-SPEAKING PUPILS (AND THEIR FRIENDS) TO ENTER THE POLISH SPOTLIGHT
There’s a specially curated selection of poems for pupils to choose from, and cash prizes.

Finally, don’t forget that you can...

ENTER YOURSELF!
Inspire your students by submitting your own entry, and unleash your creativity! Entry for adults costs £8, with a first prize of £1,000.

Watch our short video for more information about entering the prize

“The Stephen Spender Prize could not have arrived at a better time. As we language teachers devote ourselves to searching for new ways to engage our students from afar, I am thrilled to be getting my students involved in a creative activity which will take them to the heart of what it means to communicate between different languages. Now more than ever, at a time when other cultures may be less accessible physically, poetry translation has the power to guide students into other worlds, lives, and experiences.”

Katrina Barnes, MFL teacher, Comberton Village College

“I was really disappointed not to be able to run the Stephen Spender Prize in class, if I can run it as a home-schooling project I will be delighted!”

Anna Gracey, MFL Teacher, The Mandeville School

“What a find! What a way to engage my learners with the language I love! What a way to keep them going in these difficult times!”

Eva Lamb, secondary MFL teacher, Yorkshire

www.stephen-spender.org

Stephen Spender Trust is a registered charity, number 1101304. info@stephen-spender.org