

# POETRY TOGETHER


A project by Gyles Brandreth  
and Dukes Education

2023

This exciting initiative brings younger and older generations together through the joy of poetry. It is founded by Gyles Brandreth, and has been wonderfully supported by Her Majesty The Queen.

# The Challenge

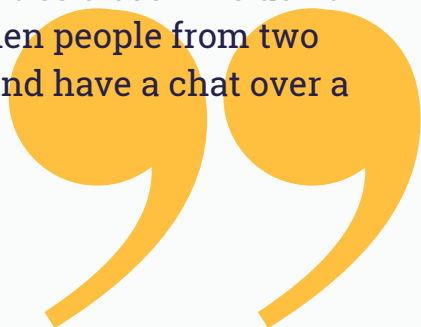
Getting young people and older people together for tea, cake and poetry between 5th September and 24th November.



With young children, engaging with poetry helps with language skills in all sorts of ways. Studies have shown that learning poetry by heart improves performance academically at school, improving concentration, and even supporting better sleep.

For adults, evidence shows that learning poetry by heart can give you a happier and more successful life. It improves the ability to communicate and strengthen relationships, improves memory, increases brain capacity and can help keep dementia at bay. It's amazing stuff really. Learning poetry together changes lives!

The project is a wonderful way to bring communities closer. We don't need science to explain how special it can be when people from two ends of the generational spectrum get together and have a chat over a cup of tea.



*Byles Grandeth.*

# To take part...

## STEP 1

Children under 18 and those of 70 years and above are asked to:

Write a poem based on the theme, 'happiness', not exceeding 14 lines

OR

choose a poem with any theme to learn by heart.

Then, practise performing them.

## STEP 2

Arrange a get-together with the elderly community in your local area, this could be grandparents, a community group or local care home. You could invite them into school for afternoon tea or ask a care home's Activity Coordinator if you can visit them. Older communities can also take the lead and approach local schools.

Invite your partner school or community to write or choose a poem to perform.

## STEP 3

Hold your event and perform your poems to one another. Take lots of pics and videos (in accordance with photography permissions). If you would like, you could also provide illustrations which will make great additions to the Poetry Together anthology.

## STEP 4

Send your poems, pictures and videos to [poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com](mailto:poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com), including the name of your poets and school. The deadline for entries is 24th November, 2023.

We will be in touch to inform you if we are able to offer any of the prize opportunities listed.

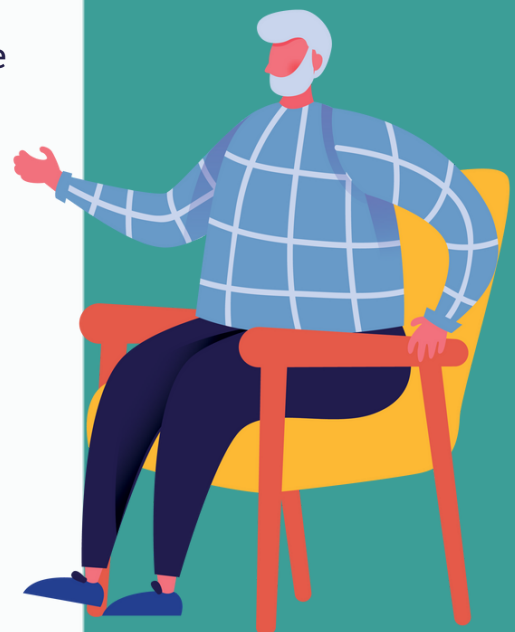


## You could receive

An invitation to present your poem on ITV's This Morning.

Publication of written poems in the Poetry Together Anthology, a copy of which will be held in the Royal Library and the British Library.

£250 worth of books for your school library.



## Key info

Challenge  
submission  
deadline  
24th November

Challenge prize  
notification by 11th  
December

## Hints and tips for a successful Poetry Together...

- Designate a Poetry Together lead.
- Plan your 'happiness' poem writing or existing poem selection and performance practise into your class time.
- A simple google search can help you find local care homes (ask for the Activity Coordinator) or local elderly community group. Alternatively, students' grandparents will be a highly engaged and easy to reach audience too.
- Assign a designated person to take photos and videos on the day of your event.



Share what you have done  
with your local community...

Your poems, pictures and videos will be perfect for your own social media platforms, and we'd love to see what you've been up to as well.

You can tag us using these accounts and hashtag.

## Contact

If you need any advice or have any questions, please contact the team at Dukes Education. We will be very happy to help.

**Email:** [poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com](mailto:poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com)

**Tel:** 020 3696 5300

A wonderful community event like this is likely to be of interest to your local newspapers, magazines and radio stations. You can simply search online for their newsdesk contacts.

Help us spread the word to young and old, far and wide.



@poetrytogetherproject



@poetry\_together



@poetry\_together



Poetry Together

#poetrytogether2023

Go forth our budding poets,  
let your imaginations glide.  
We're excited to see what you create,  
and share the joy of poetry far and wide.

POETRY  
TOGETHER