

Welcome to Poetry by Heart

Choose a poem • Learn it by heart • Perform it out loud

What is Poetry by Heart?

Poetry by Heart is a prestigious national poetry recitation contest. Home Educated students are invited to enter for the third year in a row. Experience all the joy and benefits which can be derived from learning a poem by heart and a chance to perform at the Grand Finale at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London. Entering is simple - choose a poem, learn it by heart then perform it out loud. You can choose to enter one of two categories:

Classic

Solo performers recite two poems chosen from the Poetry by Heart website. One poem must have been published in or after 1914, and one from before 1914. GCSE and A Level English students are permitted to replace one Poetry By Heart website poem with one of their set text poems as long as the pre-1914/post-1914 balance is kept. The emphasis is on competition, with a formal set of judging criteria and trophies awarded to the winners. The Classic category is for children aged 7-18.

Freestyle

This category is for solo, pair or small group performances. Entering the freestyle category is about having fun and taking part. Performers are encouraged to choose one poem from the Poetry by Heart website, although other poems are accepted in this category.

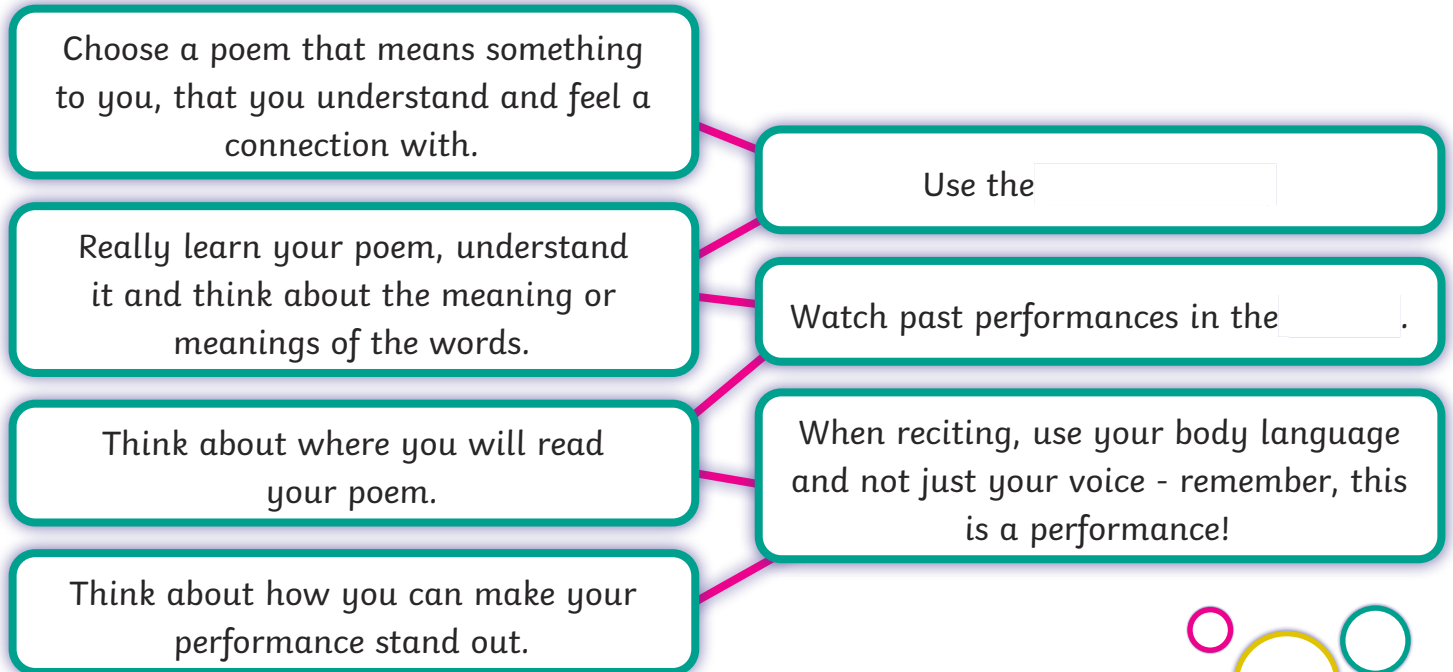


You can find more information on the different categories

The poetry by heart website has tips on getting to know your poem here. There's also advice on _____



You can use the Plan Your Poem resource in this pack to help you develop your performance.



How Can I Enter as a Home Educator?

For the purposes of the competition, the Twinkl Home Ed community will act as a school. Once you've learnt your poem, video your performance and upload it to the Twinkl Home Ed team using this

Please note: Poetry by Heart does not accept any edited videos so your performance needs to be recorded in one continuous take and with the recording frame set to landscape. You can have as many attempts as you want to get it right though!

The form contains a link to WeTransfer.com, a simple way to send videos. The form will guide you through the process of submitting your entry.

What Happens Next?

The Twinkl Home Ed team will select entrants to forward to the Poetry by Heart team. The Poetry by Heart team will review all the submissions and choose the finalists who will then be invited to perform at Shakespeare's Globe in London in June 2023.

Further Resources

This block contains several educational cards for 'Poetry by Heart'. The cards include:

- Learn a Poem:** A card with a heart icon and instructions on how to learn a poem.
- Challenge Cards:** A card with a challenge icon and instructions on how to challenge yourself.
- Say it:** A card with a 'say' icon and instructions on how to say a poem.
- More it:** A card with a 'more' icon and instructions on how to perform a poem.
- Listen to it:** A card with a 'listen' icon and instructions on how to listen to a poem.
- Draw it:** A card with a 'draw' icon and instructions on how to draw a poem.

This block contains two identical checklists titled 'Features of Reading Aloud and Performing Checklist'. Each checklist has two columns of questions with checkboxes:

- Column 1:**
 - Was it clear what I was reading?
 - Did I use a clear voice?
 - Were my words clear and easy to hear?
 - Did I use feeling and expression?
 - Did I use movement and gestures?
 - Did I consider the speed of my delivery?
 - Did I use the tone of my voice to the meaning of the words?
 - Did I use background music or sounds (if permitted)?
 - Did I follow a rhythm (if I needed to)?
 - Did I use different voices for different characters?
 - Did I speak confidently?
 - Did I make eye-contact with my audience?
- Column 2:**
 - Was it clear what I was reading?
 - Did I use a clear voice?
 - Were my words clear and easy to hear?
 - Did I use feeling and expression?
 - Did I use movement and gestures?
 - Did I consider the speed of my delivery?
 - Did I use the tone of my voice to the meaning of the words?
 - Did I use background music or sounds (if permitted)?
 - Did I follow a rhythm (if I needed to)?
 - Did I use different voices for different characters?
 - Did I speak confidently?
 - Did I make eye-contact with my audience?

This block contains several educational cards for 'Reading Out Loud' and 'Performing Poems with Confidence'. The cards include:

- Reading Out Loud:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to read out loud.
- Performing Poems with Confidence:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to perform poems.
- Over to you...:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to perform a poem.
- Sunflower Poetry:** A card with a sunflower icon and instructions on how to perform a poem.

This block contains several educational cards for 'What is Poetry?' and 'Performance Poetry'. The cards include:

- What is Poetry?:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to define poetry.
- Performance Poetry:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to perform poetry.
- The Tone of the Poem:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to identify the tone of a poem.

This block contains a 'Responding to a Poem Mind Map' template. The mind map has a central box labeled 'Read the poem. What do you think/feel?' and several surrounding boxes for notes:

- Pattern?
- Structure?
- Context?
- Function?
- Style - Why?
- Form - Why?
- Language?
- Words
- Figurative?
- Questions/tricky bits?

This block contains several educational cards for 'Being a Slam Poet' and 'Slam Poetry Versus Traditional Poetry'. The cards include:

- Being a Slam Poet:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to be a slam poet.
- Slam Poetry Versus Traditional Poetry:** A card with a play button icon and instructions on how to compare slam poetry and traditional poetry.



Plan Your Poem



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What do I think the children in the Poetry by Heart performance gallery do well? What can I take from their performances and use in mine?

Are there any themes in my poem that I can reflect in my performance, for example, would props be appropriate or could I wear something to reflect the theme of my poem?

Are there any actions that would fit with my poem? How can I use movement to highlight important moments in my poem?

What is the mood of the poem? Is it sad, nostalgic, joyful or happy? How can I show this in my performance?

How can I make my performance stand out from others?

What do I want people listening to my poem to feel? How can I achieve this?