

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.

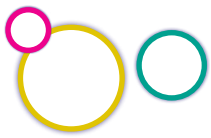
Freestyle

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



Twinkl Top Tips

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

Choose a poem that means something to you, that you understand and feel a connection with.

Really learn your poem, understand it and think about the meaning or meanings of the words.

Think about where you will read your poem.

Think about how you can make your performance stand out.

Use the

Watch past performances in the

When reciting, use your body language and not just your voice - remember, this is a 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.



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?