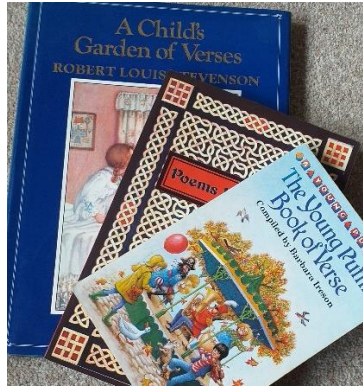


Our Favourite Poems



About this topic – *This is a good topic around the time of National Poetry Day which takes place annually on the first Thursday in October. There is a different theme each year and a wide variety of poems can be found on the National Poetry Day Website*

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

Over the years we have enjoyed reading and discussing a selection of poems and we have also had a go at writing our own.

Resources for this topic

- Suggested session plan
- Poems from National Poetry Day 2014 – “Remember”
- Autumn Acrostic Poem
- Famous Poets Word Search

We are happy for you to use the material in this Toolkit exactly as it is or to modify it as required for your purposes. We do however ask that you always acknowledge its source as follows:

“Learning and Sharing Together” Resources (2020)
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Suggested session plan (one and a half hours approx.)

Whilst the plan below has been developed for face to face meetings, all the activities can be used in Virtual meetings too, using the shared screen facility on Zoom for example, and break out rooms for some activities.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Working in small groups, **read aloud and discuss a selection of poems**. The poems could have been chosen in advance from the **National Poetry Day website** <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/> (See examples of poems from 2014). Alternatively, or in addition, you could ask the children and older people to each bring a favourite poem to the session. The children and older people should take it in turns to read a verse or two. Encourage the children and older people to talk about what it is they like, or don't like, about all the different poems. The children may like to draw a picture related to their favourite poem.
3. If there is sufficient time the children and older people should then work together in their small groups to **write a short poem**. This could be on the National Poetry Day theme or on another theme. This could be an acrostic poem with the first letter of each line spelling an appropriate word e.g. Autumn
4. Alternatively, hand out **Famous Poets Word Search**
5. Refreshments and continue with **Poetry Writing** or **Word Search**
6. Thankyous and goodbyes - Before the children and older people leave you may wish to say something about the topic or activity you have planned for the next session. This gives everyone the opportunity to be more prepared and, if appropriate, to bring photographs or other memorabilia

For information about future National Poetry Day dates and themes see <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

Our Favourite Poems

Here are four poems which we hope you will enjoy. They were chosen by the Poetry Society for National Poetry Day in 2014 when the theme was "Remember." Do any of them trigger any special memories for you? Do you have a favourite?

Long Long Ago by Clive Webster

From the anthology I Remember, I Remember (MacMillan Children's Books)

Long, long ago
When winters were real
And snow was deep,
And woollen hats
And wellies
Were worn by lads,
My mum and dad
Used to take me
For walks –
Snow walks
Cold walks
Frost-on-the-breath-walks.
With me, in between
Holding their hands
And swinging with delight
and squealing with delight
So long, long ago
When winters were real
And snow was deep
And childhood was mine.

Best Friends by Marian Swinger

From the anthology I Remember, I Remember (MacMillan Children's Books)

That's her. The photo's a bit faded
but that's definitely her, my best friend, Helen.
That's me beside her, the one with plaits.
Mum and Dad took us on a picnic that day.

We used to do everything together and I remember saying,
'We'll be best friends forever, won't we?'
Of course, we were only eight years old
and had yet to learn that nothing is forever.

Big Red Boots by Tony Mitton

From Come Into This Poem, (Frances Lincoln).

Big red boots, big red boots.
One of them squeaks and the other one toots.
One of them hops and the other one stamps.
Big red boots take long, wet tramps.

Boots, boots, big red boots.
One of them squeaks and the other one toots.

Big red boots on busy little feet
start out shiny, clean and neat.
Big red boots, oh, yes, yes, yes,
end up muddy in a terrible mess.

Boots, boots, big red boots.
One of them squeaks and the other one toots.

Boots, boots, big red boots,
squelch through mud and trample roots.
Big red boots say, "Look! Oh gosh!
What a great puddle there...Yay! SPLOSH!"

Remembering is our duty by Paul Cookson
(written specially for National Poetry Day)

Let no-one take the memories we cherish
Let no-one break the cycle of remembrance
The trivial, the everyday
These fragments that make up our lives
Let no-one taint the memories we cherish

Let's celebrate the art of not forgetting
Let's celebrate the art of total recall
The past that makes our present
The present that's our future
Let's celebrate the art of not forgetting

With thanks to <http://poetrysociety.org.uk/projects/national-poetry-day/national-poetry-day-2014-remember/> for permission to include the four poems above

Autumn Acrostic Poem

In an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line spells a word. The word is the subject of the poem. Can you write an acrostic poem about Autumn?

A

U

T

U

M

N

Famous Poets Word Search

Can you find the surnames of 10 famous poets hidden in the grid below. They may be going forwards or backwards in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal direction.

X	Z	O	F	Q	A	W	D	D	G	L	K	U	M	H	H	Z
A	Q	P	S	O	L	W	W	C	C	N	V	J	N	Y	A	P
T	Z	S	Y	X	P	O	U	U	S	Q	I	P	M	A	R	L
F	E	R	A	E	P	S	E	K	A	H	S	L	F	E	D	L
A	V	O	S	S	L	L	X	H	P	V	L	B	P	W	Y	W
M	V	S	K	L	G	L	E	U	Y	D	J	W	G	I	V	R
L	Y	S	M	N	L	K	E	B	D	T	U	P	L	K	K	F
O	F	E	N	D	A	X	Q	H	E	N	K	E	G	B	M	N
N	B	T	O	L	K	I	M	N	S	O	I	N	J	Z	X	U
G	H	T	B	D	B	C	N	H	Q	U	P	S	G	N	O	I
F	M	I	C	Z	G	Y	J	S	I	S	Y	E	E	A	S	P
E	A	A	R	X	S	V	Y	Z	L	T	L	F	M	R	M	V
L	Z	O	L	O	L	T	J	M	U	O	Q	P	S	D	D	Z
L	Q	R	N	Q	W	Z	G	N	K	S	T	A	E	K	J	K
O	M	S	V	T	Z	X	N	L	Z	W	X	Y	A	X	K	C
W	Z	M	D	V	D	B	H	K	H	C	Y	D	G	K	T	S
R	I	V	M	B	Z	H	T	R	O	W	S	D	R	O	W	O

Hardy Shelley Longfellow Wordsworth Blake

Rosetti Tennyson Shakespeare Kipling Keats

Famous Poets Word Search Answers

Hardy	Shelley	Longfellow	Wordsworth	Blake
Rossetti	Tennyson	Kipling	Shakespeare	Keats

X	Z	O	F	Q	A	W	D	D	G	L	K	U	M	H	H	Z
A	Q	P	S	O	L	W	W	C	C	N	V	J	N	Y	A	P
T	Z	S	Y	X	P	O	U	U	S	Q	I	P	M	A	R	L
F	E	R	A	E	P	S	E	K	A	H	S	L	F	E	D	L
A	V	O	S	S	L	L	X	H	P	V	L	B	P	W	Y	W
M	V	S	K	L	G	L	E	U	Y	D	J	W	G	I	V	R
L	Y	S	M	N	L	K	E	B	D	T	U	P	L	K	K	F
O	F	E	N	D	A	X	Q	H	E	N	K	E	G	B	M	N
N	B	T	O	L	K	I	M	N	S	O	I	N	J	Z	X	U
G	H	T	B	D	B	C	N	H	Q	U	P	S	G	N	O	I
F	M	I	C	Z	G	Y	J	S	I	S	Y	E	E	A	S	P
E	A	A	R	X	S	V	Y	Z	L	T	L	F	M	R	M	V
L	Z	O	L	O	L	T	J	M	U	O	Q	P	S	D	D	Z
L	Q	R	N	Q	W	Z	G	N	K	S	T	A	E	K	J	K
O	M	S	V	T	Z	X	N	L	Z	W	X	Y	A	X	K	C
W	Z	M	D	V	D	B	H	K	H	C	Y	D	G	K	T	S
R	I	V	M	B	Z	H	T	R	O	W	S	D	R	O	W	O