

POETRY TOGETHER

A project by Gyles Brandreth
and Dukes Education

2025

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.

JOIN US AT OUR
EVENT IN
MANCHESTER
FRIDAY 14TH NOV

Poets on the Road

Apply to have one of our 'poets on the road' come to your school for a fun and interactive session

The Project

Share your poems with your elderly community and enter our competition

Save the Date

Poetry Together Manchester
Aviva Studios
Friday 14th November
Within school hours

The Poetry Together event will be a celebration of all things poetry. It will be hosted by our very own Founder, Gyles Brandreth and offer performances and workshops from a variety of local poetry stars including Matt Goodfellow.

You can fully immerse yourselves in poetry and leave feeling inspired.

If you wish to attend the event...

Simply complete the short application form at
www.poetrytogether.com/manchester-event.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis.

The event is open to all children within the recommended age range of 8-16 and elderly people, so please feel free to pass the invitation on. Children are most welcome to bring a grandparent, older friend or relative.



Poets on the Road

Apply for a free visit from one of our poets on the road for a fun and interactive day celebrating the joy of poetry in the Autumn term.

We'll work with you to tailor an experience that can include an assembly, creative writing and performance workshops and creating your own poems.

In line with Poetry Together's aim to bring younger and older generations together, we ask that you then share your poems over tea and cake with grandparents, a local care home or elderly community group.



Apply at: www.poetrytogether.com/poets-on-the-road

Meet the poets...



Kate Wakeling writes for children and adults. She is the author of three acclaimed children's poetry collections: *Moon Juice*, *Cloud Soup*, and *A Dinosaur at the Bus Stop* (for younger readers). Kate's work for children has won the CLiPPA prize, The Week Junior 'Book of the Year' for poetry and been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. Kate loves sharing and performing her work with young audiences, with recent appearances at Shakespeare's Globe, the Cheltenham Literary Festival and the Imagine Children's Festival at Southbank Centre. She is a keen player of Balinese gamelan music and an enthusiastic champion of guinea pigs.



Rhiannon Oliver is an actress, poet, and workshop facilitator based in Cardiff. Rhiannon trained as an actress at RADA and has worked with companies such as Shakespeare's Globe, The National Theatre, National Theatre of Wales, BBC, and Sky TV.

She has been writing poetry for children since 2020. Her debut poetry collection for children age 8-12 will be published by Firefly Press in 2026. Her poems feature in anthologies from Oxford University Press, Macmillan Children's Books and Firefly Press, with further forthcoming. She has also been widely published in children's poetry magazines and websites including, *The Caterpillar*, *Tyger Tyger*, *The Toy*, *The Dirigible Balloon*, *Northern Gravy* and *Paperbound*.

Rhiannon has written and created performance videos for *The Big Welsh Rhyme Time* (Book Trust Cymru) and her poetry has appeared on TV (*Only Boys Aloud* Christmas Concert, S4C).

The Project

Poetry Together 2025

Getting young people and older people together for tea, cake and poetry between now and Christmas.



write or recite a poem based on this year's theme '**celebration**'.



share your poems with your local elderly community.



send us your poems and pictures to enter our competition.

In more detail...

STEP 1

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

Write a poem based on the theme, 'celebration', 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 or organisations.

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).

STEP 4

Send your poems, pictures and videos to **poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com**, including the name of your poets and school. The deadline for entries is 19th December, 2025.

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.

£200 worth of books for your school library, organisation or care home.



Key dates

Project submission
deadline
19th December

Challenge prize
notification in
January 2026

Submissions and any
questions should be
sent to
[poetrytogether@
dukeseducation.com](mailto:poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com)



Hints and tips for a successful Poetry Together...

- Designate a Poetry Together lead.
- Plan your 'celebration' 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.

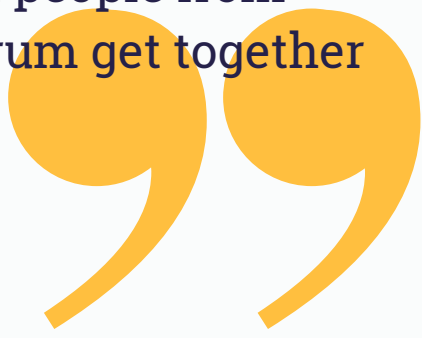




With young children, engaging with poetry helps with language skills in all sorts of ways. Studies have shown that learning poetry by heart improves performance academically at school, improving concentration, and even supporting better sleep.

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.



Gyles Brandreth.

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.

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.



@poetry_together



Poetry Together

#poetrytogether

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

Tel: 020 3696 5300

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