

The logo for Poetry By Heart, featuring the words "POETRY BY HEART" in a blue, sans-serif font. The letter "V" in "HEART" is replaced by a red heart shape.The logo for The Children's Poetry Archive, consisting of a pink speech bubble containing the text "The Children's Poetry Archive" in a white, sans-serif font.

Founded by Andrew Motion and Julie Blake in 2012, developed by The Poetry Archive with The Full English, and funded by the Department for Education, Poetry by Heart is a national poetry recitation competition open to pupils in England. The Poetry By Heart website poetrybyheart.org.uk is a shared resource of The Poetry Archive and The Full English. It is maintained and developed by The Full English for a national poetry recitation competition and for teaching and learning about poetry. Talk to us at info@poetrybyheart.org.uk.

Poetry doesn't just live in books - it lives in the sounds that words make. When we read poems out loud we breathe life into them and we can picture them in our imagination. The Children's Poetry Archive is a place where you can listen to poems read out loud, choose your favourites and share them with your friends. We hope you find your favourite here: childrens.poetryarchive.org. Sign up to the Children's Poetry Archive newsletter here: bit.ly/2kydXtl

The logo for The Poetry Society, featuring the words "THEPOETRYSOCIETY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for The English Association, featuring the letters "EA" in a large, white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue rounded square, with the words "THE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

The Poetry Society is the UK's leading poetry organisation. For over a hundred years we've been opening up poetry to an ever-growing community. Our work ranges from publishing *The Poetry Review* and hosting prestigious prizes such as the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, to commissioning a packed calendar of performances, readings, and educational activities. Find out more at poetrysociety.org.uk. Sign up for The Poetry Society's free education e-bulletin at poetrysociety.org.uk/education.

The English Association is a membership body for individuals and organisations who are passionate about English language and its literatures. Our membership includes teachers, students, authors, poets and people with general interest in the subject area, and our membership is made up of people and institutions around the world. Our aim is to further knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of English studies, and to foster good practice in its teaching and learning at all levels. Find out more at le.ac.uk/engassoc. To find out more contact engassoc@le.ac.uk

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It's fun, it's free, it's a national poetry recitation competition for pupils in England in key stage 2

As many poets have suggested, learning a poem by heart offers a special way of developing appreciation of it. Listening to a poem read or recited is a way of engaging with the musicality of poetry, which is one of its distinctive pleasures. Performing a loved poem can also have extraordinary benefits for developing self-confidence.

After five national poetry recitation competitions for secondary school pupils, Poetry By Heart is now for key stage 2 pupils too. Poetry By Heart supports the primary national curriculum for English and provides a great opportunity to have the whole school community sharing poems they love.

Launching on National Poetry Day, Thursday 3rd October 2019, it's all free and the resources you need are on the web. Get started with the Poetry For Children showcase collection of poems and teacher guide on the Poetry By Heart website poetrybyheart.org.uk/poetry-for-children and pre-register at mailchi.mp/poetrybyheart/pre-register2019 to be the first to know when the 2019-20 key stage 2 competition guide and extra poems go live in October.

By taking part in Poetry By Heart, pupils explore poetry widely, find poems they like and share them by learning them by heart and performing them to others. Your school winner(s) will be eligible to take part in the free national competition: we're looking to find 50 very special county winner performances. 10 of those county winners will be invited to our national finals event in March 2020.

Turn the page to find out how it works and how your school can be part of the fun.



Julie Blake
Co-founder and Co-Director
Poetry By Heart
February 2017



THEPOETRYSOCIETY



THE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION

Get started with Poetry By Heart

Pre-register now to get the full 2019-20 competition guide when the competition launches on National Poetry Day, Thursday 4th October 2019 at mailchi.mp/poetrybyheart/pre-register2019

Step 1: Start exploring the poems

Go to poetrybyheart.org.uk/poetry-for-children and start exploring the poems. Hover over the picture tiles and see what happens. Hit the **mix it up** button at the top and see what happens. Click a picture tile to open a poem. Choose another poem. Look for the tool bar on the side of the poem. Is there a poem activity to try or a recording to listen to? There will be lots more poems ready to explore when the 2019-20 competition starts. This is a taster collection!

Step 2: Download the teacher guide

Look for the big blue blob on the poem picture tiles page. Click to download a pdf guide with more information about the showcase collection of poems, tips on taking a poem to heart, research insights, a directory of all the poems and a guide to other resources about teaching and enjoying poetry with children. Ignore what it says about holding an event: we'll have the full 2019-20 competition guide ready for you soon!

Step 3: Sign up for the 2019-20 competition guide

Pre-register now to get your copy of the Poetry By Heart 2019-20 competition guide as soon as it's live. This will set out all the poems your pupils can choose from to take part in the competition (all of the current showcase collection and many more new ones), details of the entry categories (individual pupils, pupil groups and school staff), competition rules, the judging criteria and score sheets to use, tips on organising a competition, and how to enter your winning pupil(s) for the national competition. Pre-register here mailchi.mp/poetrybyheart/pre-register2019

Step 4: Hold your school competition

The 2019-20 Poetry By Heart school competition 'window' will be from 1st November 2019 through to Valentine's Day on 14th February 2020. That means you can hold your competition any time in that period, whenever it best suits your school. Remember, you only need 3 pupils to have a school competition – but you can, of course, make it as large as you like! And if you want to involve key stage 1 pupils too – go right ahead! It's the national competition phase that is only open to key stage 2 pupils. You might also like to know that the national competition has entry categories for key stage 3 and key stage 4 pupils. If you wanted to link up with your partner secondary schools for Poetry By Heart, go for it! When the new Teaching Zone goes live at the start of the competition, you'll be able to download official Poetry By Heart certificates and score sheets so all you have to do is pick your winners! Don't forget the staffroom competition!

Step 5: Enter your winner(s) for the national competition

Once you've picked a winner in one or more of the competition categories and celebrated their success, it's time to get ready for the national competition. Your winners can brush up their performance a little more if they want to and then you film them doing it – just a straightforward unedited video recorded in a quiet place on a mobile phone or a tablet. We'll give you super-clear instructions in the 2019-20 competition guide about how best to film your winner's performance and how to get the video to us securely. It's free, it's digital, it's safeguarded – and our team will be standing by to help you. You'll have a chance when you send us your video to tell us what was special about your competition and your winners.

Step 6: We'll announce up to 50 county winners and 10 national finalists

We'll announce the winning schools (not pupil names) in each category on our website and via Twitter and we'll also write to every school that took part in the competition so you know how your pupils got on. We'll announce winners, runners up and special commendations in all the competition categories in each county. And then we'll announce which schools are invited to take part in the 2019-20 national finals event. Will it be your school?

Step 7: The national finals event

When the Poetry By Heart competition goes live on National Poetry Day, 4th October 2019, we will also announce the date and venue of the 2019-20 national finals event. This will be a really special event where pupils from all over England will come together to share their poems, enjoy a host of activities, and be celebrated for their magnificent achievement in being the very best poetry reciters of the year. The competition part of the day, where we pick the 2019-20 national champion for key stage 2, will be judged by awesome nationally celebrated poets. Everyone will have a great poetry day out and there will be prizes for pupils and schools! All the details will be in the 2019-20 competition guide. And don't worry, there will be risk assessments, travel expenses and teacher cover costs to help you take part!

