

# National Poetry Day 2020

**NATIONAL  
POETRY   
DAY 2020**

**See It Like a Poet**

*Poetry: literary work in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by the use of distinctive style and rhythm.*

**National Poetry Day 2020 Theme: *Vision***

National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages all to enjoy, discover and share poetry. This year, National Poetry Day has chosen the theme, *Vision* to allow children to see the world like a poet.

National Poetry Day generates an explosion of activity nationwide, thousands of amazing events across the UK – on doorsteps and at kitchen tables, in gardens and streets, in schools, libraries and public spaces both online and offline – all celebrating poetry’s power to bring people together.

The Day starts conversations, it encourages love of language – and best of all, it’s open to absolutely everyone to join in, quietly or noisily in rewarding and enjoyable ways. As the artform’s most visible moment, it showcases the ways in which poetry adds value to society.

Below, we have a variety of poetry links and activities for you to participate in, in order for you to make National Poetry Day a success within your school:

Click here to watch Mr Perrott’s Assembly and learn all about this fantastic day!

## **Activities for children:**

*Within these activities, there are a range of poems and teacher notes to follow to help aid with the teaching of these activities.*

[National Poetry Day: Colour in Poetry](#) - A wonderful activity where children can use their favourite colour or possibly a range of colours to write a poem. Challenge: write a poem using colour to express your thoughts and feelings about a current event!

[National Poetry Day: The Sleepy Giant](#) - A brilliant speaking and listening activity that allows children practise reading poetry aloud. Vary intonation, mood and expression by focusing on key lines within the poem. Challenge: draw an impression of ‘the Sleepy Giant’ based on evidence from within the poem.

[National Poetry Day: Who’s the Man?](#) - Within this activity, children are given the opportunity to explore poetry through art. With links to complementary artwork, children can draw their own work based on the poem, ‘Who’s the Man?’. Challenge: create a class poem based on the idea of giving an alliterative gift.

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[National Poetry Day: Planet for Sale](#) - Inspired by the poem, Planet for Sale, children can explore environmental issues and how they see the world, before drafting their own poem. Within this resource are subsequent step by step video guides by the poet to support children in the planning process.

[National Poetry Day: Granny is...](#) - This hilarious, fun and engaging lesson is great for children of all ages as they create a fun and cheeky poem about a member of their family. Sing, dance, chant whilst incorporating metaphors and similes for effect. Children can draw and illustrate their poems for greater effect!

## Additional resources and activities:

- ❑ Take time to have a whole class discussion surrounding poetry! What do you think poetry is – how would you describe it? What does poetry mean to you? Is it something that rhymes or that doesn't have to? Is it funny, beautiful, boring? Does it help you feel or understand things?
- ❑ Before National Poetry Day, challenge children to find a poem that they love or would enjoy to share! Display examples of children's favourite poems and new collections or anthologies to share and discuss, ensuring each class can see this display and borrow books.
- ❑ Throughout the day, share a number of poems based around the theme of 'Vision'. Pick out a range of exciting poems and allow children to hear, listen and discuss what they like and dislike, what they imagine and how it makes them feel! Click [here](#) for a bank of poems to choose from.
- ❑ Use computer based apps, including FlipGrid to record children sharing their favourite poems, Jamboard, where children can collaborate together or Adobe Sparks, where children can create a short video based on poems written by themselves.

## Additional videos and activities:

- ❑ BBC Bitesize - Click [here](#) to watch a range of videos that explain the different styles of poetry.
- ❑ Benjamin Zephaniah - Click [here](#) to watch, 'I Love my Mother...'
- ❑ Michael Rosen - Click [here](#) to watch, 'Dinner Hall'.

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