



Devon County Council
Waste Poetry Competition 2019
Resource Pack

Everything you need to help you teach children how to write poetry
about waste and the 3Rs





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INTRODUCTION

Devon County Council is running a poetry competition for young people in Autumn 2019. Entries will be accepted from any child aged between 5 and 18 and resident in Devon (not Torbay or Plymouth). Poems should be written about the subject of rubbish and waste, such as reducing waste, composting, reusing or recycling.

The competition will be open for entries from mid-September up to the **closing date of 30th November**. There will be four categories (KS1, KS2, KS3/4 & 16-18). Poems can be submitted either by post to the Waste Education Officer at Devon County Council, emailed to recycle@devon.gov.uk or put into the collection bin at one of the participating Devon libraries.

The winners will be decided by a panel of expert judges – namely poets Anthony Wilson and John Wedgwood Clarke (both lecturers in English at Exeter University) and Alex Kittow, head of Libraries Unlimited, alongside a representative from Devon County Council. Judging will occur in January 2020.

The top prize in each category is a £50 book token and the opportunity for the poem to be read out and shared across the Recycle Devon Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels. Runners-up prizes are a £25 book token and goody bags of Recycle Devon merchandise. Shortlisted poets (runners up and winners) will be invited to the Recycle Devon Thank You Awards in March 2020 where the overall winner of each category will be announced. All runners-up and winners will be invited to record their poems for our Youtube channel.

Appledore Book Festival and Budleigh Literary Festival are promoting the competition during their education work and at venues during the festivals. Devon Libraries are promoting the competition in every participating library.



Poetry competition terms and conditions



- 1) By entering the competition, entrants are deemed to have read, accepted, and agreed to be bound by, these Terms and Conditions.
- 2) Entry to the competition is open to all young people aged 5-18 resident in Devon (excluding those from the Unitary authorities of Plymouth and Torbay).
- 3) The closing date for entries is midnight on **Saturday 30th November 2019**.
- 4) Entrants must write a poem, at school or at home, on a rubbish, waste, 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) or compost theme (including plastics).
- 5) The poem must be **submitted on A4 paper in portrait in 12pt or 14pt Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri font**.
- 6) Poems can be in any form and any length up to 20 lines long.
- 7) Schools may submit multiple entries, but only **one entry per pupil** will be accepted.
- 8) For the purposes of judging, entries will be divided into four categories:
 - a) KS1 (years 1 & 2; 5-7 year olds)
 - b) KS2 (years 3, 4, 5 & 6; 8-10 year olds)
 - c) KS3/4 (years 7-11; 11-15 year olds)
 - d) 16-18 year olds
- 9) Entries can be **submitted** using any of the following methods:
 - a) By email to recycle@devon.gov.uk
 - b) By drop off at a public library in Devon in the designated bins
 - c) By post to:

Lucy Mottram,
Waste Management Team,
County Hall,
Topsham Road,
Exeter
EX2 4QD

- 10) Entries sent electronically should be in **Word or PDF format**. If submitted from a school, file names should include the school name, pupil name and the year group of the pupils (e.g. Silverton_HartleyJ_Y5). Otherwise the file name should include the young persons' name and age: e.g. HartleyJ_10.
- 11) One winning entry and two runner-up entries will be selected for each of the age categories detailed above.
- 12) In case of a high number of entries submissions may be shortlisted by an impartial panel prior to judging, at the discretion of Devon County Council.
- 13) The winning young person in each category will win **£50 of book tokens** and a reusable bag of Recycle Devon merchandise. They also win the opportunity to read out their poem and have it recorded so it can be broadcast across our social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.
- 14) The runners up will be awarded **£25 of book tokens** and a reusable bag of recycled goodies.
- 15) The twelve winners and runners up will each receive a framed certificate and the chance have their poem read aloud (either by themselves or someone nominated by them or the Recycle Devon team) for the Waste Education YouTube channel.

- 16) There are no cash alternatives for any of the prizes.
- 17) The winners will be announced in March 2020 at the Recycle Devon Awards.
- 18) Devon County Council accepts no responsibility for late, lost, incomplete, incorrectly submitted, delayed or misdirected entries.
- 19) Entries will not be accepted from any children of the judges, DCC Waste Management Team, Suez or Resource Futures Waste Educators.
- 20) Devon County Council will appoint a fair and impartial judging panel to judge the entries and select winners. The winners will be selected from all valid entries. In the event of either poor quality or no valid entries being received from pupils in a particular age category, the judging panel reserves the right not to award all prizes.
- 21) Schools and young people must be willing to participate in publicity surrounding the winning of the prize and consent to Devon County Council and partner organisations using the submitted poems for publicity purposes. Winning entries may be used to promote the 3Rs and composting through events, exhibitions, websites and publications for both commercial and non-commercial usage.
- 22) Devon County Council will not be liable for any loss (including, without limitation, indirect, special or consequential loss or loss of profits), expense or damage which is suffered or sustained (whether or not arising from any person's negligence) in connection with this competition or accepting or using the prize, except for any liability which cannot be excluded by law (including personal injury, death and fraud) in which case that liability is limited to the minimum allowable by law.
- 23) The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into other than to notify the winning entrants. If any winning entry is deemed not to comply with these Terms and Conditions, the entry will be discarded and an alternative winner of the prize will be determined by the judges.
- 24) These Terms and Conditions are governed by English Law and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Any queries relating to this competition should be directed to:

Lucy Mottram, Waste Education Officer

Email: lucy.mottram@devon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01392 383519



Teaching Poetry

National Poetry Day on the 3rd October 2019 gives teachers and educators the perfect opportunity to get children across the UK writing poetry. Our Devon Waste Poetry Competition also provides an exciting new angle on a subject that has recently been high up on the public agenda, especially following documentaries like Our Planet, Blue Planet and Hugh's War on Plastic.

Writing poetry with children is an important part of learning to be playful with the English language and can give children an interesting outlet for their creativity. Read our hints and tips below for how to inspire children to create a potentially prize-winning poem!

Article about the perfect poetry lesson:

"It's simple, really. Enthusiasm. Writing for real audiences. Teachers as poets. Poetry as a major strand of the curriculum. Lots of paper. Off you go."

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2012/oct/03/national-poetry-day-perfect-poetry-lesson>

Tips from experts

From **Ted Hughes – Poetry in the Making**

In his book, Poetry in the Making, the famous poet Ted Hughes explains how to help children create great poetry, including getting them to experience things which they then can turn into poetry. Children can often write well about novel or strange landscapes, and this can be triggered by a few words to start them off thinking before writing.

Here are some ideas for triggers for this competition and links to books that could be read out loud to a class:

1. Imagine yourself as a turtle in a sea full of plastic. You are trying to find your lunch. What do you find? (*Hint: there are some great stories about turtles and plastic in the oceans including Tuamor the Turtle by local Devon author Jo Earlam or Duffy's Lucky Escape by Ellie Jackson*)
2. You are standing on the edge of a landfill site in South America. What is it like? (*Hint: use the book Ada's Violin by Susan Hood to help elicit responses*)
3. You are a cat watching the dustmen and women collect the recycling from everyone's homes. What are the sights and sounds you experience? What if



you joined them on their journey through the streets and lanes of Devon? (*Hint: the classic storybook [The Patchwork Cat](#) by Nicola Bayley has some lovely pictures and a comforting story*)

4. You are a piece of litter travelling along a river to the sea. Where do you go? (*Hint: read the poem [I Asked the River](#) by Valerie Bloom to the children - <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poems/i-asked-river>*)
5. You are an alien and you land next door to the Energy from Waste plant in Exeter. Explain in your report home what is going on. (*Hint: watch the [Recycle Devon Schools](#) video about the Exeter Energy from Waste plant - <https://youtu.be/cFpHaCd76ls>*)

Lesson Plan: Take a Poetry Walk to the waste and recycling bins

One of the ways to get children to write poetry on a subject is to get them to experience the sights and sounds of the subject. If you were asking them to write about nature, take them to a quiet meadow or forest and ask them to sit, listen and experience.

Rubbish and recycling is all around us. Why not take your class out to the school bins? Have a good look and smell. If your school has a compost heap, then take them there. Take magnifying glasses and plastic containers and do a minibeast or bug hunt while there!

Back in the classroom ask them to come up with a Word Bank – this will be particularly helpful for the lower ability in the class. Display it on the board.

Then give them space and time to create a poem, write and re-draft. Don't limit their creativity – a poem is called a poem when the reader and writer agree it is a poem.

If you want to go further afield than your school bins, then Devon County Council can arrange a visit to an Energy from Waste plant in either Exeter or Plymouth. The machinery and scale of operation is bound to inspire some children. Contact Lucy Mottram for more details on lucy.mottram@devon.gov.uk or 01392 383519.



Sample Lesson Plans

KS1 Poetry

Subject: English

Year: 1/2

Topic: Waste Poetry

Links to National Curriculum:

Y1 - Listen to and discuss a wide range of poems.

Y1 - Write sentences by saying out loud what they want to write.

Y2 – Develop positive attitudes towards writing poetry

Y2 – Use and understand adjectives and expanded noun phrases in their writing

Learning objectives: To think about some good words to describe waste and to write the start of a poem

Lesson structure

Teacher notes/structure

Starter: Go on a waste and recycling treasure hunt around the school

What do you see/smell/hear/feel?

Start by saying that rubbish is not just to throw away. Talk about precious metals that are present in mobile phones like gold.

Ask if children have old tablets and mobile phones at home – are they buried in a drawer like buried treasure?

Can your class find the bins where all the school's rubbish is hidden?

Main Activity: Thinking of words

1. Word cloud of words children could use in a poem.

2. Talk about poetry. Read out some poems with strong imagery.

3. Ask children to compose out loud a first line of a poem titled "Stinky rubbish or buried treasure"

Think about words on way back to class. Discuss with a partner.

Use a free online tool like <https://wordart.com/create> or <http://www.wordle.net/> to create a class word cloud of different words.

Look at the words together. Talk about adjectives – powerful ways of creating images. Talk about using expanded noun phrases to create imagery, e.g. the silvery bin.

See the poems in our collection below or search for the suggestions above online.

Or choose a title of your own choosing...

Plenary:

Ask children to read out what they have written.

Extension: Write out the sentence. Draft, check for mistakes and re-draft.



Lower KS2 Poetry

	Subject: English	Year: 3/4
Topic: Waste Poetry	Links to National Curriculum: Y3/4 - Preparing poems to read aloud and perform	
Learning objectives: To write a poem using Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout by Shel Silverstein as inspiration to perform aloud to the class		
Lesson structure	Teacher notes	
<p>Starter: Show the YouTube video of Shel Silverstein reading his poem Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout.</p>	<p>YouTube video available here: https://youtu.be/-104x-t85G4 Provide the class with print-outs of the poem from our Poetry Pack. Talk about the poem as a class – what parts were good, funny or boring.</p>	
<p>Main Activity: Compose a poem</p> <p>In groups compose a poem based on their own experiences at home.</p> <p>(NB. Poems from groups will not be accepted for the DCC poetry competition, but this lesson can be used as inspiration for individuals to write their own poems)</p>	<p>Start with questioning: How many bins do they have at home – recycling, compost/food waste and black bin bags? What do they look like? What is in them? Check out our guide to local bins here: https://zone.recycledevon.org/practical-information/</p> <p>Now talk in partners about what is in their bins and if they help their parents take the bins out. They could draw pictures to help them think about the items they throw away at home.</p> <p>Then work in groups – decide who is scribe/writing down what to say.</p>	
<p>Plenary:</p> <p>Perform each poem to the rest of the class.</p>	<p>Can the rest of the class think of ways the group could improve their poem? What bits were brilliant?</p>	
<p>Extension: Ask the children to write their own poem based on this lesson and submit it to the DCC Waste Poetry Competition.</p>		



Upper KS2 Poetry

	Subject: English	Year: 5/6
Topic: Waste Poetry	Links to National Curriculum: Read and discuss a wide range of poetry Plan, draft and write a poem	
Learning objectives: To plan, draft and write a poem about waste, recycling, plastic pollution or litter		
Lesson structure	Teacher notes	
Starter: The current state of the world – waste and plastic pollution	Show the class pictures of waste and plastic pollution from the internet. Show the children parts of the Blue Planet film about plastic pollution (https://youtu.be/xLx4fVsYdTI) or look at our YouTube channel for ideas of other short videos to play: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHby835r5GWVN13bLdyii9VVet_Th26j7	
Main Activity: Read some waste poems and discuss Think of good words or phrases. Think of a message. Think, draft and write a poem. Share and edit.	Read through some waste poetry – as well as those listed in this pack look here: https://allpoetry.com/poems/about/plastic Partner talk, then discuss as a class some good adjectives, nouns. Use the word bank for specialist words associated with waste, recycling and sustainability. Discuss what students would like their poems to communicate – what is their message? Is it one of action, powerlessness, hope for the future? Leave children time to think and talk to each other before writing. Some children may need to jot ideas down or draw pictures to be able to write a poem.	
Plenary: Share what some students have written.		
Extension: Type it out so the poems can be entered into the DCC waste poetry competition.		



	Subject: English	Year: 7/8/9/10/11
Topic: Waste Poetry	Links to National Curriculum: Read a wide range of fiction, develop critical thinking skills and write their own poetry.	
Learning objectives: Draft and write a poem about waste		
Lesson structure	Teacher notes	
Starter: Read through the poems by John Wedgwood Clarke as a class (see poems on page 15).	<p>What do the poems make you feel about the places and scenes the poet describes?</p> <p>What language is he using to make you feel that?</p> <p>Is there anything shocking or disturbing about the images?</p>	
Main Activity: Write a poem about waste	<p>We see waste, recycling and litter around us all the time, but don't often consider it worthy of writing about. Do you know where your waste and recycling goes and the journey it goes on? When do your paths cross with the rubbish and recycling?</p> <p>On your own, make a mindmap of all the different moments in your day or week when you come across rubbish and recycling. Do you visit the tip with parents at the weekend? Do you pass by a sorting facility or somewhere they deal with food waste or composting? Have you ever seen the stack of the Energy from Waste plant in Exeter or Plymouth? Do you get stuck behind the recycling collection vehicle when it's picking up from your street?</p>	
Plenary: Share the poem	<p>Our website (http://zone.recycledevon.org/videos) and Youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5GLQ89DvLEnuvYXHkx41vQ/) has some videos about where your food waste and black bin bag waste goes after it leaves your doorstep.</p>	
Extension: Type up poetry and submit to the DCC Waste Poetry Competition	<p>Discuss in groups the journey that rubbish and recycling takes from bin at home to disposal or recycling centre. Where does litter fit into the picture? What happens when rubbish falls out of the system, eg. cotton buds that fall through sorting equipment?</p> <p>Read through the poems again on your own. Highlight some of the techniques the poet uses to create atmosphere and sense of place in the poems.</p> <p>Write your own poem about a location where rubbish exists, whether bins at home, sorting facilities or Energy from Waste plants. Use interesting language to convey sense of place and create atmosphere. Draft, edit and re-draft the poem.</p>	



Word Bank

Some words to help you:

Reduce	Natural resources
Reuse	Raw material
Recycle	Disposable
Rubbish	Consumer
Litter	Renewable
Landfill site	Finite
Plastic	Non-renewable
Waste	Energy from Waste
Crude oil	Nurdle
Climate change	Carbon dioxide
Greenhouse gas	Mitigation
Greenhouse effect	Adaptation
Methane	Business-as-usual
Microplastics	Circular economy
Ocean gyre	Sustainable development

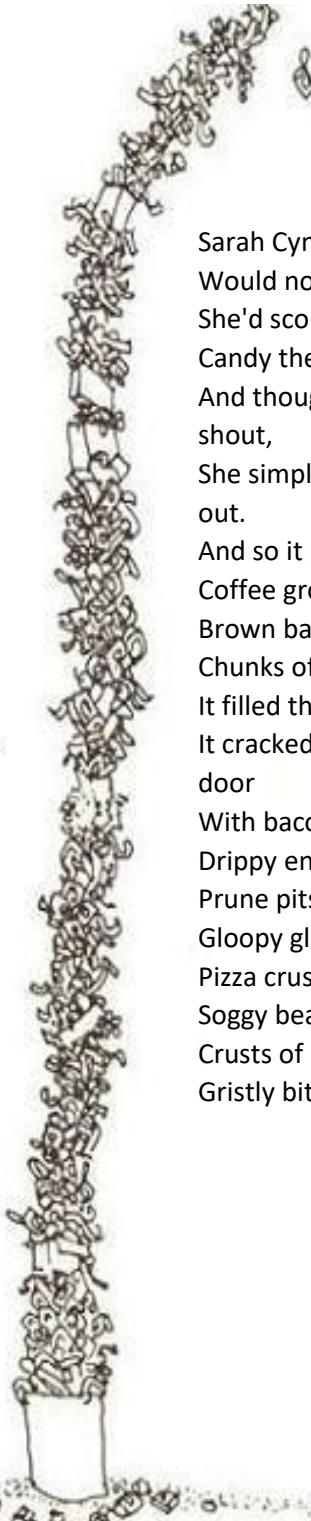


Some poems about rubbish



Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout would not take
the garbage out!

By Shel Silverstein



Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout
Would not take the garbage out!
She'd scour the pots and scrape the pans,
Candy the yams and spice the hams,
And though her daddy would scream and shout,
She simply would not take the garbage out.
And so it piled up to the ceilings:
Coffee grounds, potato peelings,
Brown bananas, rotten peas,
Chunks of sour cottage cheese.
It filled the can, it covered the floor,
It cracked the window and blocked the door
With bacon rinds and chicken bones,
Drippy ends of ice cream cones,
Prune pits, peach pits, orange peel,
Gloopy glumps of cold oatmeal,
Pizza crusts and withered greens,
Soggy beans and tangerines,
Crusts of black burned buttered toast,
Gristly bits of beefy roasts...



silverstein-ua.ucoz.com

The garbage rolled on down the hall,
It raised the roof, it broke the wall...
Greasy napkins, cookie crumbs,
Globs of gooey bubble gum,
Cellophane from green baloney,
Rubbery blubbery macaroni,
Peanut butter, caked and dry,
Curdled milk and crusts of pie,
Moldy melons, dried-up mustard,
Eggshells mixed with lemon custard,
Cold French fries and rancid meat,
Yellow lumps of Cream of Wheat.
At last the garbage reached so high
That finally it touched the sky.
And all the neighbors moved away,
And none of her friends would come to play.
And finally Sarah Cynthia Stout said,
"OK, I'll take the garbage out!"
But then, of course, it was too late...
The garbage reached across the state,
From New York to the Golden Gate.
And there, in the garbage she did hate,
Poor Sarah met an awful fate,
That I cannot right now relate
Because the hour is much too late.
But children, remember Sarah Stout
And always take the garbage out!

Shel Silverstein's poem and illustration
for "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would
Not Take the Garbage Out" from
WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS © 1974,
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Literary Agency Ltd

The Man on the Dump

By Wallace Stevens



Day creeps down. The moon is creeping up.
The sun is a corbeil of flowers the moon Blanche
Places there, a bouquet. Ho-ho...The dump is full
Of images. Days pass like papers from a press.
The bouquets come here in the papers. So the sun,
And so the moon, both come, and the janitor's poems
Of every day, the wrapper on the can of pears,
The cat in the paper-bag, the corset, the box
From Esthonia: the tiger chest, for tea.

The freshness of night has been fresh a long time.
The freshness of morning, the blowing of day, one
says
That it puffs as Cornelius Nepos reads, it puffs
More than, less than or it puffs like this or that.
The green smacks in the eye, the dew in the green
Smacks like fresh water in a can, like the sea
On a cocoon—how many men have copied dew
For buttons, how many women have covered
themselves
With dew, dew dresses, stones and chains of dew,
heads
Of the floweriest flowers dewed with the dewiest
dew.
One grows to hate these things except on the dump.

Now in the time of spring (azaleas, trilliums,
Myrtle, viburnums, daffodils, blue phlox) ,
Between that disgust and this, between the things
That are on the dump (azaleas and so on)
And those that will be (azaleas and so on) ,
One feels the purifying change. One rejects
The trash.

That's the moment when the moon creeps up
To the bubbling of bassoons. That's the time
One looks at the elephant-colorings of tires.
Everything is shed; and the moon comes up as the
moon
(All its images are in the dump) and you see
As a man (not like an image of a man) ,
You see the moon rise in the empty sky.

One sits and beats an old tin can, lard pail.
One beats and beats for that which one believes.
That's what one wants to get near. Could it after all
Be merely oneself, as superior as the ear
To a crow's voice? Did the nightingale torture the ear,
Pack the heart and scratch the mind? And does the
ear
Solace itself in peevish birds? Is it peace,
Is it a philosopher's honeymoon, one finds
On the dump? Is it to sit among mattresses of the
dead,
Bottles, pots, shoes, and grass and murmur aptest
eve:
Is it to hear the blatter of grackles and say
Invisible priest; is it to eject, to pull
The day to pieces and cry stanza my stone?
Where was it one first heard of the truth? The the.

Wallace Stevens, from *The Collected Poems*
(Knopf, 1923)



Dump song

By John Wedgwood Clarke



Sing, summer,
In our plastic bags,
sing tatters
in the shining buds,

a zephyr, tumour,
inflated heart,
snag and fritter
in the May.

The ground fluffs,
generators throb,
merry spin
the cowls,

Our leaking sacks,
simmering blur,
mount up, crying
in the May.

Vertigo

By John Wedgwood Clarke

They pulverized broken pots and querns
and mixed the temper into clay,
one body fused inside another,
old thirsts and thumbprints in new cups.

At the dream-cliff's edge, unable even to crawl,
my body's liquid flows towards
rocks surfacing like the heads of seals
in a multi-coloured plastic soup.

Processing Plant

by John Wedgwood Clarke

I. Heap of Doors



By the conical mound of crushed rubble
they're stacked like a child's pack of cards,
wedged apart, rocking on door handles,
neither entrance nor exit, nor a place for change
to occupy the hand; no longer able
to repeat the letting go of what cannot
be let go of in great jamb-cracking slams,
or opened once more into rooms
that sweat our histories; and not, now they're hinged
on air, playthings of the weather,
tapping at their latches, haunted by the same wind
that fans and combs the sea, rattling
at rooms beyond so close they might be in us.

IX. All God's Dumb Animals



Flies rise as a shadow passes over
plastic bottles crushed
like oyster shells. A midden of
industrial thirst,
polymerized petroleum
blue-tinting purity into tepid
organic volcanic
limestone/chalk-filtered
brands, a market out of parched
water fountains. A wagtail
drops from a rogue sycamore,
blessing with shit a two-litre empty
adrift in long grass,
lemonade sunlight greening the interior.

John Wedgwood Clarke, from Landfill
(Valley Press Poetry, 2017)



A Dragon in the Classroom

By Charles Thomson



There's a dragon in the classroom:
its body is a box
its head a plastic waste-bin,
its eyes are broken clocks,

its legs are cardboard tubes,
its claws are toilet rolls,
its tongue's my dad's old tie
(that's why it's full of holes).

'Oh what a lovely dragon,'
our teacher smiled and said.
'You *are* a pretty dragon,'
she laughed and stroked its head.

'Oh no, I'm not,' he snorted,
SNAP! SNAP! he moved his jaw
and chased our screaming teacher
along the corridor.

Other resources: online

Zone Website

<http://zone.recycledevon.org>



Waste Education in Devon website – full of teaching resources and information about recycling, reuse and composting in schools.

National Poetry Day

Thursday 3rd October

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

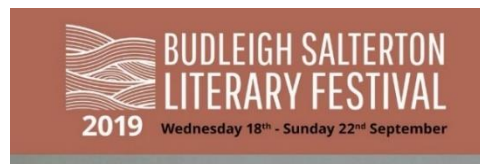


The website includes lots of information about ways to incorporate poetry writing into your classroom. There are free teaching resources for all key stages and links to poems and authors.

Budleigh Literary Festival

Wednesday 18th – Sunday 22nd September 2019

<https://budlitfest.org.uk/>



Appledore Book Festival

Friday 20th – 28th September 2019

<https://www.appledorebookfestival.co.uk/>



Libraries Unlimited

Devon's amazing public libraries are run by Libraries Unlimited. There are 50 across Devon and they remain free for the public to use and are open every single day (opening times may vary).

<https://www.librariesunlimited.org.uk/>



The Poetry Society

Great online lesson plans and resources, plus links about getting poets to come to your school and competitions to enter.

<https://poetrysociety.org.uk/education/>



Other resources: books

Poetry Books

100 Best Poems for Children, chosen by children, edited by Roger McGough (2001) Puffin Books

What Can you do with only one Shoe? – Reuse, Recycle, Reinvent by Simon and Sheryl Shapiro (2014) Annick Press

Landfill by John Wedgwood Clarke (2017) Valley Press

Please Mrs Butler by Allan Ahlberg (1983) Puffin Books

Story Books

Tuamor the Turtle by Jo Earlam (2015) Brilliant Autobiographies

Duffy's Lucky Escape by Ellie Jackson (2017) Wild Tribe Heroes

The Patchwork Cat by Nicola Bayley (1993) Dragonfly Books

Ada's Violin – the story of the recycled orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood (2016) Simon & Schuster

Text Books

Poetry in the Making – A handbook for writing and teaching by Ted Hughes (1967) Faber and Faber

What is Poetry – The essential guide to reading and writing poems by Michael Rosen (2016) Walker Books

To Rhyme or not to Rhyme? – teaching children to write poetry by Sandy Brownjohn (1994) Hodder & Stoughton

Making Poetry Happen – transforming the poetry classroom edited by Sue Dymoke, Myra Barrs, Andrew Lambrith and Anthony Wilson (2014) Bloomsbury

