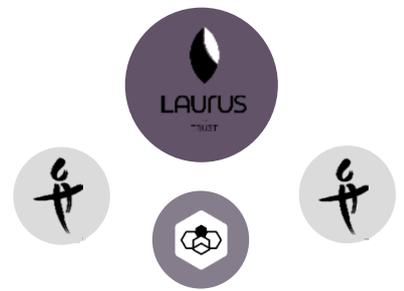


LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6

WORDS: MRS P
DESIGN: MISS M



THEME OF *Poetry* THE WEEK

Dear Students,

This week our focus is poetry. For many people poetry is something that they turn to at emotional times in their lives: to express themselves, to reflect, to provide comfort and consolation. Poetry deals with love, life, laughter, anger, grief and all the feelings in-between.

WHAT IS POETRY?

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, a famous eighteenth century poet, said that poetry was "*the best words in the best order*". A more recent poet, Children's Laureate **Michael Rosen**, stated "*Poems are like photos in a photo album: moments, objects, people – frozen for us to look at*". And a well-known philosopher mused that "*Poetry and Hums aren't things which you get, they're things which get you. And all you can do is go where they can find you*". That philosopher? **Winnie-the-Pooh!**

POET LAUREATE

This is an honorary position that dates back to 1616 and is appointed by the King or Queen! The Poet Laureate role used to be for life but is now chosen every 10 years. Although they don't have any specific duties, poets often write about significant national occasions and they are paid £5,750 and a barrel of sherry. **Simon Armitage** is the current Poet Laureate; you can check out his poem *Lockdown* at www.simonarmitage.com. The previous Poet Laureate was **Carol Ann Duffy** and both these poets have written poems that are often studied at GCSE.

VERSE NOVELS

A verse novel is a novel length story told through poetry. It often has different characters telling the story and uses dialogue, narration description and action in the same way a novel would. This type of novel has gained recognition and become more popular in recent years. **Poet X** by **Elizabeth Acevedo** won last year's Carnegie Prize and another winner was **One** by **Sara Crossan** in 2016. Other nominees have been **Rebound** by **Kwame Alexander** and **Long Way Down** by **Jason Reynolds**. All these fantastic books are popular with pupils at LCH Library!

WRITING POETRY

Who's Who

I used to think nurses
Were women,
I used to think police
Were men,
I used to think poets
Were boring,
Until I became one of them.

Benjamin Zephaniah



ALL THINGS POETIC

Poetry doesn't just live in books – it lives in the sounds that the words make. www.childrens.poetryarchive.org is a place where you can listen to poems read out loud. Why not check it out? www.poetrysociety.org.uk/young-poets has information about events, competitions and support networks for young poets. **National Poetry Day** is on 1st October this year and the theme is *Vision*. Find poems and inspiration at www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk.

POETRY COMPETITIONS

There are lots of poetry competitions to take part in throughout the year! Two coming up soon are the **Magdalena Young Poet's Prize**, which closes on 1st February 2021 (<https://twitter.com/MaggiePoets>) and the **Wales Young Poet Award** (<https://poetrywales.co.uk/youngpoets>), which is open to all young people living in the UK and closes at 3pm on 15th February. Both sites give further guidance and tips on how to get started and improve your writing. Why not get started on your entry?

SLAM POETRY

Poetry slams started in America in the 1980s. Slam poetry is written to be performed. The poets can give any kind of performance they like as long as the poem is their own and they don't use props or music. The audience plays an important part in judging the poems and the competitive element mean it's like an X-Factor for poetry. The poems need to be relevant, engaging and up to minute. Examples can be seen at <http://slam.poetrysociety.org.uk>.

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

This week, we wanted to share some of our favourite pieces of poetry!

Mrs P loves the witty poet Wendy Cope and recommends that you browse through poetry anthologies to find poets that you like.

Mrs B's favourite poetry book is *The Emergency Poet*; an anti-stress anthology by Deborah Alma.

Miss M loves Sarah Crossan's verse novels. Her absolute favourite is *One* (even though it made her cry!)