

What is it?

A **national poetry competition** in which pupils aged 7-18 from schools and colleges in England compete by performing poems they have learned by heart.

It starts with a contest in our school/college to select who will go forward to the national competition.



What is it?

- There are two competition types – students can choose one or do both.
- The CLASSIC competition is for individuals - 2 poems from the Poetry By Heart website, one published before 1914 and one in or after 1914
- The CELEBRATION competition is for individuals or groups – 1 poem from the Poetry By Heart website, performed any way you like



What we do at KLB

- We use three lessons – 1 for introducing the competition, 1 for choosing a poem/poems from the PBH timeline and 1 for learning.
- All pupils should show evidence of having learned a poem or two
- There's then a class competition



What we do at KLB

- Winners of the class competition go through to the whole school event.
- This year, 86 students took part in the school competition.



What are the benefits of taking part?

- Chance to compete in a national event
- Opportunity to step out of your comfort zone
- Build self confidence
- Learn valuable public speaking and performance skills
- Discover the world of poetry in a new way
- Improve retrieval skills
- Learn a poem they can keep for life!
- And much more...



How is the competition judged?

- **Voice** – 1-7 points – *natural accent, volume, rhythm, speed and stress contribute to overall effect*
- **Understanding** - 1-7 points – *clearly and powerfully communicate the meaning of the poem to the audience*
- **Presentation** – 1-7 points – *overall effect of the recitation – including making eye contact, appearing confident and using appropriate body language*
- **Accuracy** – 4 points – *a word perfect recitation required for full marks*

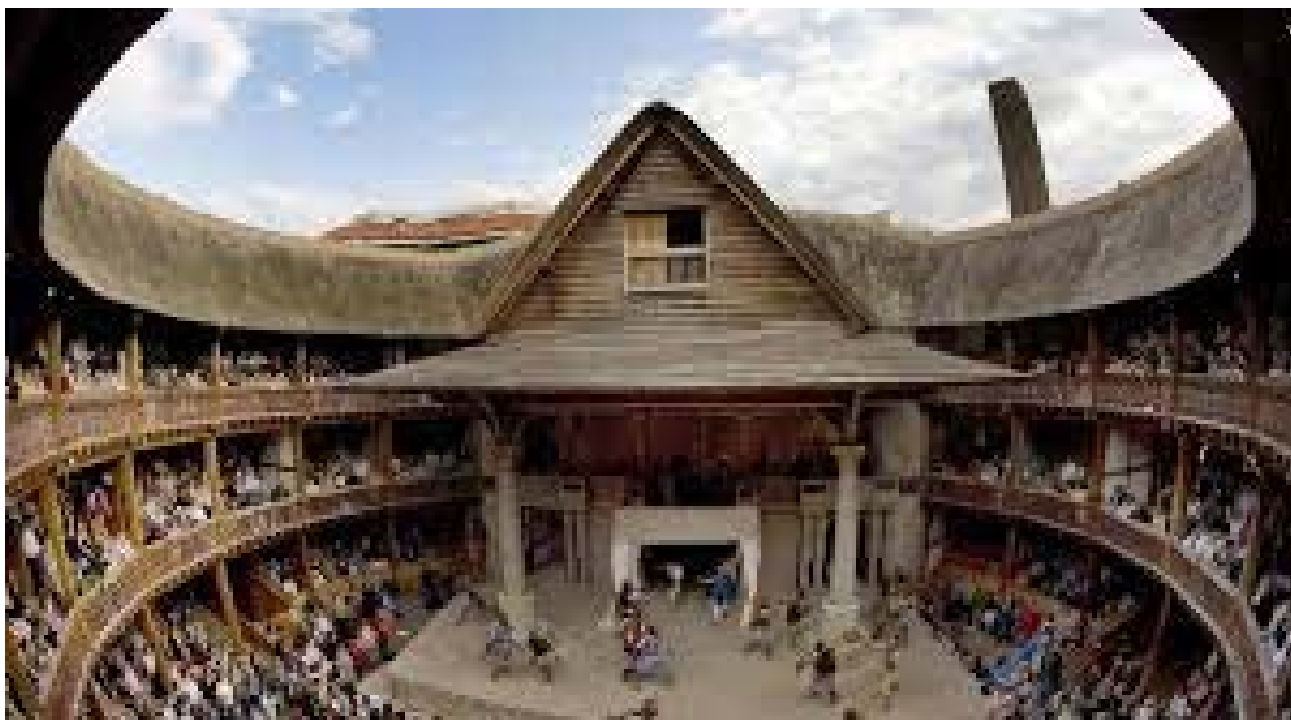


What will I win?

- Individual feedback from the judges and a certificate, plus books and poetry goodies for the best performances
- CLASSIC - the top 10 in each key stage invited to perform in front of top UK poets at a special prize ceremony hosted at the British Library in London. PLUS Poetry By Heart champions trophies for the top 3. And one key stage 4 or 5 student will be invited to represent England at a student poetry reciting showcase in Canada!
- CELEBRATION – the 10 best nationally invited to perform in front of top UK poets at a special prize ceremony hosted at the British Library in London.



The National Final



POETRY BY
HEART

Winners

- Last year, Amy (year 12) was named as a finalist in the key stage 5 Poetry By Heart competition and went to the Globe in July.
- Last Sunday and Monday, Zakarya (year 8) took part in the national final of the Poetry By Heart competition.
- He beat hundreds of other pupils to get to this point.
- He recited *The Jumblies* by Edward Lear on the stage of the Globe Theatre in the company of published poets – Daljit Nagra, Michael Rosen and others including the poet laureate himself - Simon Armitage.



Links to the poems and how to use the timelines

- Key stage 3 (11+ Timeline)

<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/learningzone/choose-a-poem-11/>

- Key stage 4 (14+ Timeline)

<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/learningzone/choose-a-poem-14/>

- Key stage 5 (16+ Timeline)

<https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/learningzone/choose-a-poem-16/>