

 *Letting in the Light* 
a poetry competition for young writers

The Somerset Literacy Network and Taunton's Fire River Poets invite young poets to enter their **free to enter** poetry competition for 2022.

Entrants are asked to write a poem on the theme of **LIGHT**.

The theme has been deliberately chosen to allow children to express feelings of hope for the future.

Inspiration and encouragement are available through specially written resources, a launch video and the option to apply for funded workshops with a poet.

Details of how to access this support are overleaf.

All prizewinning and commended poets will be invited to an awards evening at the beautiful Dillington House near Ilminster in Somerset on 5th July 2022 at 6pm.

Here they will have the opportunity to perform their poem and meet acclaimed children's poet and fiction-writer AF Harrold.

COMPETITION RULES

1. There are five categories:
 - Key Stage 1 (5 – 7 years)
 - Lower Key Stage 2 (7 – 9)
 - Upper Key Stage 2 (9 – 11)
 - Key Stage 3 (11 – 13)
 - Key Stage 4 (14 – 16).
2. Entrants must have the approval of their teacher or parent before entering.
3. Poems must be the original, unaided work of the poet entering.
4. Poems must be between 8 and 40 lines excluding the title and blank lines.
5. There can be only **one entry** per poet.
6. **Contact details must be provided for each entry:** Please write the poet's name (first name and surname), year group, school/parent email on the back of EACH poem.
7. **For group entries, please also complete the group entry form we provide.** This is essential because of the volume of entries we receive.
8. Poems must be legible and submitted on A4 paper. They may be hand-written **or** word-processed.
9. We regret that poems cannot be returned, so make sure you keep a copy.
10. The competition will be judged by staff of Somerset Literacy Network and members of Taunton's Fire River Poets. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence can be entered into regarding the judges' decisions.
11. **Entries must be submitted by 31st May 2022.** Winners and commended poets will be contacted directly by 20th June 2022. The names of longlisted, shortlisted, commended and winning poets will be displayed on the Somerset Literacy Network and Fire River Poets websites.
12. Prize-winners in each age category will receive a framed copy of their poem, a certificate and two copies of the anthology of the 2022 winning, commended and highly-commended entries. This anthology will be launched at the Awards Evening at Dillington House near Ilminster in Somerset where all featured poets will be offered the chance to read their work live or online.

Thank you for entering and good luck!

Please send poems to: Annie Fisher, c/o Resources for Learning, Parkway, Bridgwater TA6 4RL
We are sorry but we cannot accept email submissions. Queries: anniefisher2015@outlook.com

To support the Competition...

Launch Event

The Competition will be officially launched at the **Somerset Literacy Network Conference** at Dillington House near Ilminster on Friday 5th November 2021.

A **video of AF Harrold** promoting the competition will be available on the Somerset Literacy Network and Fire River Poets websites following the conference.

Online resources and workshops

A range of **supporting materials** for teachers to use with each age-group will be available on the Somerset Literacy Network and Fire River Poets websites from 5th November 2021.

There will also be recordings of **free poetry workshops** for teachers to use with children (Key Stage 1/Key Stage 2/ Key Stage 3 and 4) available to view at any time on the Somerset Literacy Network and Fire River Poets websites.

In-school workshops



Arts Council England Funding has been secured to offer a limited number of in-school poetry workshops for Primary and Secondary Schools and Teachers across the country.

Workshops will be taught by prize-winning Devonshire poet and teacher Matt Bryden. www.mattbryden.co.uk

Booking for these workshops will open on **Monday 4th October 2021**. They are limited to the following areas and dates and will be on a first-come, first-served basis with 50% of workshops for the Primary phase and 50% for the Secondary phase.

Somerset	FULLY BOOKED	9 th , 10 th and 11 th November 2021
Bristol		23 rd , 24 th and 25 th November 2021
Cornwall		6 th , 7 th , 8 th and 9 th December 2021
Vale of the White Horse		18 th , 19 th and 20 th January 2022
Swindon		1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd February 2022
Dorset		1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd March 2022
Plymouth		15 th , 16 th and 17 th March 2022
Bath		29 th , 30 th and 31 st March 2022
Devon		26 th , 27 th and 28 th April 2022
Malvern		9 th , 10 th , 11 th and 12 th May 2022

To express interest in a funded workshop, please email Matt Bryden for further information on matt.bryden@gmail.com. Matt is also available for you to book directly for a full or half-day charged at Poetry Society rates.

Live Performance

On 1st March 2022 there will be an evening **live-streamed reading of poems** on the theme 'Letting in the Light' by the Fire River Poets, including a guest poet, at Taunton's CIC Centre. This is an open event and booking is available on the Fire River Poets website.

 *Letting in the Light* 
*a poetry competition for young writers***Funded Poetry Workshops for Primary and Secondary Schools with Matt Bryden**
What to expect

The aim of each workshop is threefold:

- to introduce children to the competition and the theme ‘Letting in the Light’
- to introduce children to a poem or poems on that theme
- to inspire children to write – or begin to write – a poem following a series of prompts

The emphasis will be on inspiring children to generate ideas rather than a workshop on developing particular poetic techniques. It is expected that teachers will follow up the workshop with time to support the children to edit and refine their poems.

The theme of the competition has been deliberately chosen to allow children to express feelings of hope for the future.

The funding dictates that 50% of visits will be in the primary phase and 50% in the secondary phase. School visits will be for either a morning or an afternoon in the designated areas and dates.

Morning: 3 x 1-hour workshops

Afternoon: 2 x 1-hour workshops

(plus optional 1-hour after school workshop for local teachers)

The timetable for each visit will be confirmed with individual schools.

The children should be grouped as follows:

- Key Stage 1 (5 – 7)
- Lower Key Stage 2 (7 – 9)
- Upper Key Stage 2 (9 – 11)
- Key Stage 3 (11 – 13)
- Key Stage 4 (14 – 16)

Schools may wish to include children in receipt of the pupil premium grant, as well as children who might not necessarily be the most vocal in class, in each workshop group.

Workshop groups could also be made up of children from several schools.

Access to a whiteboard and Powerpoint will be required, and this should be clearly visible to the group.

Following the workshop, the children will be encouraged to edit their work and present it to best advantage; therefore school staff should be in attendance throughout the workshop to support this process.

At the end of the workshop, teachers and children will be asked to complete a feedback form.

Matt Bryden is also able to offer a 1-hour poetry workshop to teachers in the schools in the area at the end of the school day. Arrangements for this will be discussed at the time of booking.