



Imagine a Poem – poetry writing competition

The Inspiration

What does Freedom mean? It is an important message in the lyrics of John Lennon's famous song, *Imagine*.

Do you think of peace, love, friendship, understanding? Or flags and banners, a sea-breeze, a bird soaring or a ball flying into the air? Maybe freedom is an absence: freedom from hate, freedom from war or slavery, freedom from hunger or poverty. Or a positive: freedom to speak, freedom to have a home, safety, justice, fairness, truth and equality.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says we all have 30 freedoms, no matter who we are or where we live. One of these is the freedom to express ourselves creatively.

The Competition

We want you to write a poem inspired by the topic of Freedom, the theme of this year's National Poetry Day and a theme of John Lennon's immortal song *Imagine*, which is being released as a beautiful picture book, illustrated by Jean Jullien.

So how do **you** imagine Freedom?

We are offering prizes for the best new poems on freedom, written for National Poetry Day.

- Use the word "Imagine" as the title
- You could take the lyrics of *Imagine* as your starting point, and begin each line with the phrase 'Imagine there's...'
- Or, you could write an acrostic poem, in which the first letters in each line spell out the words IMAGINE or FREEDOM
- See the [National Poetry Day toolkit](#) for suggestions on how children can start their poems



Imagine by John Lennon is illustrated by Jean Jullien, with a Foreword by Yoko Ono Lennon. It comes out on 21st September 2017, the International Day of Peace, published by Frances Lincoln Children's Books in support of Amnesty International.

Prizes

Shortlisted entries will be judged by National Poetry Day Ambassadors. There will be two age-group winners and from those, one overall winner.

- Years 2,3 and 4 (7 - 9 year olds)
- Years 5 and 6 (10 - 11 year olds)
- **Overall prize:** a visit from a National Poetry Day Ambassador to their school in January/February 2018, plus a special copy of *Imagine* signed by the illustrator Jean Jullien.
- **Age-group winner's prize:** a copy of their poem illustrated by a National Poetry Day artist ambassador, plus a special copy of *Imagine* signed by the illustrator Jean Jullien.
- **Runners-up:** poems published on the National Poetry Day website, alongside the two winning poems. One runner-up class or school will also receive a selection of books

Entries

- The competition is open from 15th August 2017 to Friday 1st December 2017
- Winners and runners-up will be notified before the end of term
- Please write your entry on no more than one A4 sheet of paper, and submit to Frances Lincoln Children's Books by 1st December

Email: childrensmarketinguk@quarto.com Title: NPD Imagine Competition

Post: NPD Imagine Competition, Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 6 Blundell Street, London N7 9BH