



# TOOLKIT FOR LIBRARIES

NATIONAL  
POETRY   
DAY 2020

See It Like a Poet  
1st OCTOBER 2020

Sharing a poem is a fabulous way for people to connect, whatever their age, reading ability or confidence around poetry. During lockdown – when isolation was a national condition – short films and texts of favourite poems went viral online, and thousands recognised the cheering power of the right words at the right moment.

We make it easy for librarians and library users to **find great poems**, with permissions cleared for printing and sharing, on this year's National Poetry Day theme: Vision.

We have also identified **40 recent and forthcoming poetry books** for readers of all ages, from beautifully illustrated treasuries of classics ancient and modern to work by radical new voices, touching on the big issues – prejudice, inequality and climate change – in vivid language that speaks directly to the mood of the times.

For ease, we have divided our selection of 40 great new poetry books into [four lists](#), all downloadable as PDFs from the National Poetry Day website.

- Recommended for You
- Recommended for You and Your Book Group (in two formats, with Book Group notes and without)
- Recommended for Young Adults
- Recommended for Children

Finally, we have been hugely impressed by **the creativity of front-line library staff** during lockdown, as they sought new ways to keep in touch. Libraries across the UK – from Scotland to Suffolk – participated in the #haiflu challenge in June, inviting responses to lockdown in haiku form: just three lines of 5-7-5 syllables. Some of the most impressive were featured on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, and you can enjoy a particularly fine set of crowd-sourced Project Haiflu tagged #haiflu films on West Sussex Libraries' [Facebook page](#).



#ShareAPoem

[www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk](http://www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk)



How can your library ensure its audiences get involved in National Poetry Day between now and 1st October?

## 1. EASY WINS

**Sign up** to the National Poetry Day mailing list and follow us on social media:

Twitter [@PoetryDayUk](https://twitter.com/PoetryDayUk) / Facebook [@PoetryDayUk](https://facebook.com/PoetryDayUk) / Instagram [@nationalpoetryday](https://instagram.com/nationalpoetryday)

**Check out** our new lists of 40 recommended reads: order the ones that will appeal to your audience.

**Download** poems from our site and the others listed below: print them out and stick them on notice boards.

**Share** your favourite poems on social media, using the hashtags #ShareAPoem and #NationalPoetryDay.

**Share** our content and the [National Poetry Day logo](#) to keep your social media accounts full of fresh poetry.

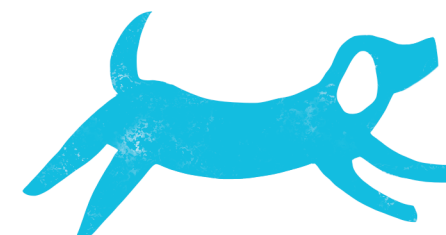
**Display** poetry books, photograph them and share online using the hashtags #ShareAPoem and #NationalPoetryDay.

**Share** a poem in your newsletters.

**Download our free education resources** – each contains a poem plus creative writing tips: they work just as well out of school, as in the classroom.



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## 2. MORE PLANNING

**Inspire** all reading groups in your library to choose from the Recommended for Book Groups list and encourage them to use the conversation-starters [provided on our website](#) for their discussions.

**Invite** your audiences to share their favourite poems via social media – and to say why they like that poem in particular.

**Start** your weekly team meetings with a short poem. Or, every fortnight, nominate a team-member to choose a poem to go up in the washroom or kitchenette.

**Set up** an online poetry challenge based on Liv Torc's [Project Haiflu](#): your digital audience will love the chance to create something short within tightly defined limits, especially if it involves sharing pictures as well as words. Brainstorm about the National Poetry Day theme of *Vision*.

**Book an online creative writing workshop** with one of the following poets via their websites. Workshops are paid work, so consider teaming up with other libraries in your authority to share the fee.

Online workshops for adults: [Rhian Edwards](#), [Marvin Thompson](#), [Bhanu Kapil \(via Twitter\)](#)

Online workshops for children: [A. F. Harrold](#), [Joshua Seigal](#), [Laura Mucha](#)

Online workshops for YA: [Louisa Reid](#), [Kate Clanchy \(via Twitter\)](#)

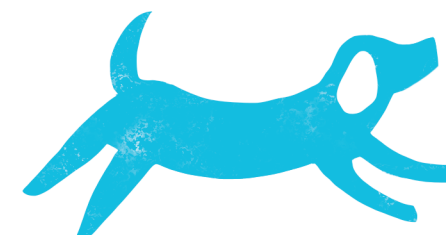
Also, take a look at our [National Poetry Day Ambassadors](#), a crack corps of inspiring poets who bring poetry to new and young audiences – in schools, in bookshops, in libraries, in public squares – all year round.

**Put the event and activities** you plan – whether virtual or on-site – for 1 October on the [National Poetry Day map](#), so that we can shout about you, and local and national press can find you.

**Screen** a poem about your area: the [National Poetry Day YouTube channel](#) has films of poems by BBC Local Poets of 2019.



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### 3. SKY'S THE LIMIT

Enter the **NPD library challenge** for 'most poetic' library authority. The one which has planned the most – and most imaginative – happenings, online and off – by 14 September will get a free visit from an **INSPIRING POET** plus a newly composed poem celebrating the vision of its staff and users! ([Sign up to our newsletter for more details](#)).

We will also feature you on the National Poetry Day website and social media as NPD library, or library authority of the year.

#### Links to great poetry websites:

- [Academy of American Poets](#)
- [Apples and Snakes](#)
- [CLPE](#)
- [Poetry Book Society](#)
- [Poetry Foundation](#)
- [Scottish Poetry Library](#)
- [The Poetry Archive](#)
- [The Poetry Society](#)
- [The Poetry Station](#)

- [Forward Prizes for Poetry](#)

National Poetry Day is co-ordinated by the charity Forward Arts Foundation, which promotes the knowledge and enjoyment of poetry, and runs the annual Forward Prizes for Poetry. These awards, decided on 25 October, honour the best new poetry published in the UK: the shortlists are a great place to learn more about contemporary poets and poetry. Previous winners include Jackie Kay, Liz Berry, Ocean Vuong, Simon Armitage and Kate Clanchy.

#### KEEP IN TOUCH

Sign up to our mailing list:

[nationalpoetryday.co.uk/join-our-mailing-list-full](http://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/join-our-mailing-list-full)  
or contact: [info@forwardartsfoundation.org](mailto:info@forwardartsfoundation.org)

#### SUPPORT US

**Forward Arts Foundation** changes lives by giving people the confidence to create and communicate, we support poets and strengthen communities. We need your support, both for poets and for the infrastructure that makes poetry possible.

To donate, please go to:

[www.forwardartsfoundation.org/about-us/support-us](http://www.forwardartsfoundation.org/about-us/support-us)



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