



The Poetry Archive is delighted to announce the launch of the new Children's Poetry Archive website with Michael Rosen, former Children's Laureate, as Patron: <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/>

Following research undertaken with children and teachers this exciting new site is fully modernised, colour coded, clean, simple and vibrant. Aimed at 6 to 12 year olds, it has been designed to offer as few barriers between children and poems and the joy of poetry as possible.

It offers 24 hour access to poetry via tablets and mobile phones so children really do have access whenever they want it. And the new website has some clever new functions to make listening to poetry even more fun:

Whilst children can read the text of the poem as they listen to it, a new and unique 'Eyes Shut Ears Open' symbol allows them to listen purely to the poem being read out loud without distractions. This is a truly innovative approach to presenting poetry through websites.

A new 'My Archive' function allows young visitors to build their own playlists. There they can relisten to their favourites or share their playlists with friends – another first in poetry listening for children.

Patron Michael Rosen said: *'Fantastic news! A treasure trove of wonderful poems for children available all round the clock for anyone and everyone. The magic of audio is that the poems leap from server straight into the ear, so that the rhythms and tones of poems just happen inside our heads. Just think: hundreds of poems and not a question, not a test, not an exam anywhere nearby. Just poems, doing the stuff that poems do, which is entertain, intrigue, engage, mystify, excite or lead us to ponder and wonder in a million different ways.'*

The website includes poems read by the poets who wrote them, as well as poems which other people have recorded. It is an entirely safe, child friendly space which children can explore with information immediately and dynamically organising itself in response to any search they try. One parent called it a 'poetry ninja' of a site.

“The benefits of hearing a poet read their own work out loud are profound and children have a natural ear for, and joy in, poetry’s rhythm and meter. The Children’s Poetry Archive aims to inspire children to enjoy poetry in their own time and place and this site will help to ensure children’s appetite for poetry will be met, and shared, for generations to come.” Tracey Gury, Director, Poetry Archive

"Poetry for young people is a gift, part of the inheritance of anyone who speaks the language. To collect all this work together in one place is like the piling up of an enormous hoard of treasure, which is the property of anyone who uses it. The T. S. Eliot Foundation is very proud to be involved with this wonderful archive."
Clare Reihill, Trustee T S Eliot Estate

Please tell all your friends about us! We'd love you to share this link and the childrens.poetryarchive.org address as far and wide as you can. Let's make sure that every child knows they can love poetry too.

[Visit the NEW website](http://childrens.poetryarchive.org)

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

The Poetry Archive was established by Sir Andrew Motion (then Andrew Motion and poet laureate) and the record producer Richard Carrington in 2005. It is a charity with a mission to produce, acquire and preserve a unique digital collection of recordings of poets reading their own work and to make these valuable voices available for present and future generations to enjoy. We encourage greater and more diverse exploration

and engagement with poetry by audiences of all ages, stages and circumstances from around the world, by offering poems from our recordings free-of-charge at our website www.poetryarchive.org .

As our collections grew we found there were so many exceptional poets who write for children that we took the decision to present these works in their own website - The Children's Poetry Archive - in 2014, however that design simply replicated the main Poetry Archive site. The relaunched www.childrenspoetryarchive.org is the first website dedicated to children's enjoyment and engagement with listening to poetry.

Our vision is to preserve, and make available for future generations, uniquely valuable voices which would otherwise be lost, celebrating the relationship between the poem and the listener. Children's access to poetry can sometimes be limited by the choices they are given in the school curriculum. The Children's Archive offers a freely accessible resource which unlocks our whole collections for children to explore, broadening the world-wide audience (around 20% of our audience comes from outside the UK) for poetry by making it relevant, accessible and enjoyable for all. The site currently holds over 250 poems alongside interviews and themed collections, and we will continue to raise funds from our supporters to ensure this important collection continues to grow.

The Poetry Archive is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England; the new Children's Poetry Archive website has been made possible with the support of the T S Eliot Foundation.

Tracey Guiry has a background in literature development, supporting writers and poets in their careers as co-founder and CEO of Literature Works. She joined Poetry Archive as Director in 2016 and aims to unlock the Poetry Archive's collections of poetry recordings so that more people can explore, enjoy and engage with this unique collection.

Contact Tracey Guiry at tg@poetryarchive.org or via admin@poetryarchive.org.

Patron: Michael Rosen is one of the best-known and best loved figures in the children's book world, renowned for his work as a poet, performer, broadcaster and scriptwriter. As an author and by selecting other writers' works for anthologies, he has been involved with over 140 books. He lectures and teaches in universities on children's literature, reading and writing. Michael is a familiar voice to BBC listeners and visits schools with his one-man show to enthuse children with his passion for books and poetry. He was one of the first poets to make visits to schools throughout the UK and has also visited schools throughout the world.