

National Poetry Day 2021: Libraries Toolkit

Are there easy ways I can get involved?

Uh-huh. Of course.

- Sign up to the National Poetry Day [mailing list](#).
- Follow us on social media:
 - Twitter [@PoetryDayUk](#)
 - Facebook [@PoetryDayUk](#)
 - Instagram [@nationalpoetryday](#)
- Check out our [Recommended Poetry Books](#) list which highlight the vibrancy, diversity and inclusivity of new poetry published each year. For ease, we have divided our selection into four lists, and each list has its own poster:
 - Poetry books for adults.
 - Poetry books for book groups.
 - Poetry books for children.
 - Poetry books for young adults.
- Download our curated and [commissioned poems](#), with permissions cleared for printing and sharing, from our site and stick them on notice boards.
- Display [National Poetry Day posters](#) which can be downloaded on our site.
- Display poetry books, photograph them and share online using the hashtags
- Share a poem in your newsletters.
- Download our [free resources](#) for school and libraries – each contains a poem plus creative writing tips: they work just as well out of school, as in the classroom.

What can I do on social media?

We would love for you to get involved in our 'I choose poetry because...' campaign. All you need to do is:

- Download the social assets or print off the A4 sticky notes found [here](#).
- Ask your patrons/customers or yourself to write down why you choose to read poetry. It may be because it reminds you of your childhood. It may be because it voices things you couldn't say yourself. It may be because poetry's just, well, cracking. Whatever the reason, write it down.
- Take a picture and tag us, or @ us on social using the hashtag #NationalPoetryDay
- You could also stick all these up on a bulletin board. We'd love to see why people all over the country choose to read poetry.

And of course, there are simple things you can do:

- Share your favourite poems on social media using our [social assets](#) and the hashtags #NationalPoetryDay.
- Share our content and the National Poetry Day logo to keep your social media accounts full of fresh poetry.

We discovered this year that poetry is really effective at tackling social isolation.

– Librarian, York

I'm feeling adventurous, what else could I do on National Poetry Day?

Go you; we approve. Other things you could do which might require a bit more planning are:

- 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.
- 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.
- Book an online creative writing workshop with a poet. Workshops are paid work, so consider teaming up with other libraries in your authority to share the fee.
- If you're unsure about who to contact, 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 7 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.

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](#)

To end here's a poem written by National Poetry Day Ambassador James Carter to celebrate this year's theme of 'Choice':

Choose A Poem!

Choose a poem
choose it well
one you'd want
to show or tell

Read it once
then twice again
keep that poem
in your brain

Share it every
place you go
share with everyone
you know

Say it loud
say it slow
let that rhythm
really flow

Ring out every
single word
so we're in
that poem's world

Pick a book
and just get going –
time for you to
choose a poem!

– James Carter

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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.