



# NATIONAL POETRY DAY

## 4TH OCTOBER 2018

Key stage 2/3

**Past Present Future:**  
*a resource created for  
National Poetry Day by  
poet Ken Cockburn and the  
Scottish Poetry Library*

Scottish  
Poetry  
Library

Bringing people  
and poems together

The **Scottish Poetry Library** is committed to bringing the pleasures and benefits of poetry to as wide an audience as possible.

[www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk](http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk)

### Past

The library has lots of books.  
It's good for quiet and not to be under a big stress.  
I remember I hid there  
when I was playing hide-and-seek.  
Room 17 was my P5 classroom.  
We always got sun  
coming through the window.

### Future

In Maths we want to learn about  
different ways to work out a sum  
harder stuff like the 15 times table  
decimals and equivalent fractions  
money and algebra

The poems were written in 2014 and 2015 by Ken Cockburn and  
P7 pupils from Leith Primary School, Edinburgh.

## Activity:

As you move from primary to secondary school, you can write down memories of your schooldays so far, think about where you are right now, and imagine what you might know and do in the future.

## PAST

### A Walk through the School

Working in groups, each group is given a different part of the school. Within each group, each person chooses somewhere different within their part of the school, and writes down its name, and something they know or remember about it.

Put everything in sequence, as if you were walking from one part of the school to another. Your poem becomes a guided tour based on all your memories, as in the poem PAST.

## PRESENT

### A Local Alphabet

Make a list of local features, such as

- street names
- shops, cafés, restaurants
- public buildings, e.g. sports centre, library, church, mosque etc
- open spaces – parks, gardens etc
- natural features – river, trees, hills etc

Gather words into an alphabetical list, with (if possible) several suggestions for each letter.

(For difficult letters like Q and X, you might have to use the names of friends, or think imaginatively!)

Choose one word for each letter, and write a line about this place.

*At Asda we buy things we need... and things we want!*

*At Bonnie's we live young, wild and free.*

*At Cables Wynd House we roll down the hill with our dodgy skateboards.*

*At Dalmeny Street Park we play basketball with our friends.*

You could also try writing for pairs of letters, and making the lines rhyme.

## FUTURE

Make a list of subjects you'll study at secondary school.

Choose one subject and write down what you hope to learn as the pupils at Leith Primary School did with Maths.

Think about what you'd like to do when you leave school, and write a verse about it.

*If I was a \_\_\_\_\_,*

*This is what I'd say*

*" \_\_\_\_\_ "*

*Every single day.*

