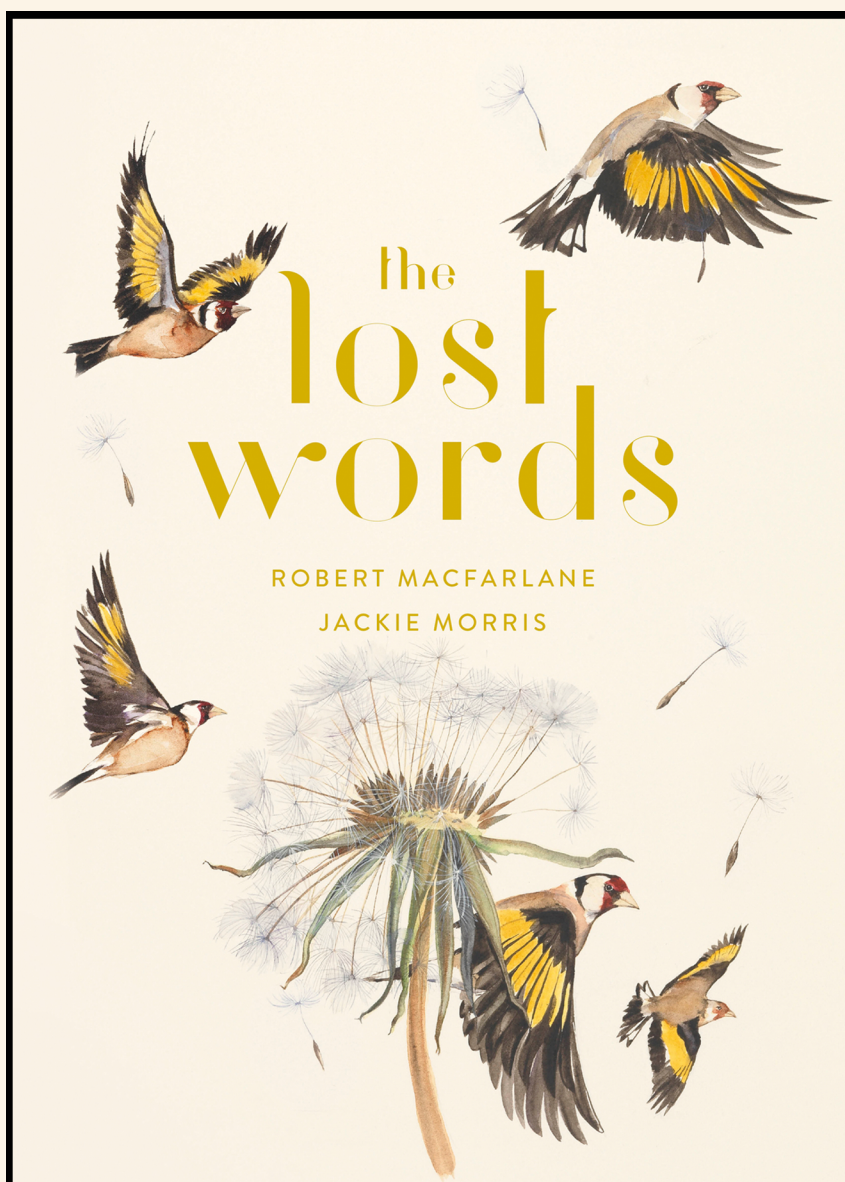


National Poetry Day The Lost Words competition

Bring the magic into your classroom and inspire your pupils

Win a signed copy of **The Lost Words**
plus £100s worth of books from publisher Penguin Random House



First prize in each age group:

a certificate, a signed copy of **The Lost Words**, a giant **The Lost Words** bookmark
plus £100 of PRH books

Runners up in each age group:

a certificate, a giant **The Lost Words** bookmark plus £50 of PRH books

The Lost Words is a very special book, a joyful celebration of nature words and the natural world they invoke. With acrostic spell-poems by award-winning writer Robert Macfarlane and hand-painted illustration by Jackie Morris, it captures the irreplaceable magic of language and nature for all ages and fascinates children.

How to enter:

Share these pages from **The Lost Words** with your pupils. Take turns to read them out loud. Discuss the poems and the illustrations. What words do they like best? What are their favourite lines? How do the illustrations reflect the details in the poem?

Now ask them to write their own poems on a favourite bird or animal – perhaps one you can see in the school playground or in a local park. Suggest they make this an acrostic poem, like Robert Macfarlane's.



The competition is open to children in **two age groups**: 7 - 9, and 10 – 12, or years 2 - 4 and years 5 – 7.

Send entries to:

The Lost Words Competition
National Poetry Day c/o
the Royal Society of Literature
Somerset House
Strand
London
WC2R 1LA

**Robert Macfarlane
will choose the
winners**

Closing date:
5th November 2018

Good luck!



otter.

otter

Otter enters river without falter – what a supple slider out of holt and into water!

This shape-shifter's a sheer breath-taker, a sure heart-stopper – but you'll only ever spot a shadow-flutter, bubble-skein, and never (almost never) actual otter.

This swift swimmer's a silver-miner – with trout its ore it bores each black pool deep and deeper, delves up-current steep and steeper, turns the water inside-out, then inside-outer.

Ever dreamed of being otter? That utter underwater thunderbolter, that shimmering twister?

Run to the riverbank, otter-dreamer, slip your skin and change your matter, pour your outer being into otter – and enter now as otter without falter into water.



kingfisher

kingfisher

Kingfisher: the colour-giver, fire-bringer, flame-flicker, river's quiver.

Ink-black bill, orange throat, and a quick blue back-gleaming feather-stream.

Neat and still it sits on the snag of a stick, until with...

Gold-flare, wing-fan, whipcrack the kingfisher – zingfisher, singfisher! –

Flashes down too fast to follow, quick and quicker carves its hollow

In the water, slings its arrow superswift to swallow

Stickleback or shrimp or minnow.

Halcyon is its other name – also ripple-calmer, water-nester,

Evening angler, weather-teller, rainbringer and

Rainbow bird – that sets the stream alight with burn and glitter!

