

NATIONAL WRITING DAY

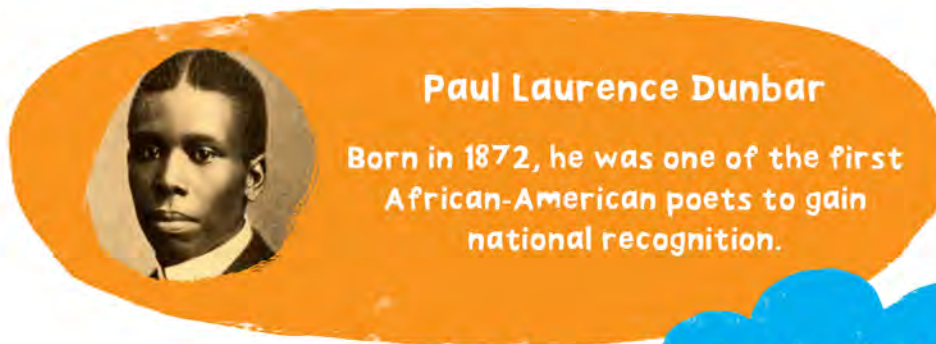
26th June 2019

Why not write a nature poem on National Writing Day?

Poets have always found inspiration in nature!

For example, look at this poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar, introduced here by award-winning poet and National Poetry Day ambassador Joseph Coelho.

"I love planting seeds in spring and reaping their fruit in autumn and watching in the time inbetween. Seedlings are a wonderful metaphor for change and Paul Laurence Dunbar beautifully charts that growth."



#nationalpoetryday
www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk



As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:

"I am not so very robust,
But I'll do the best I can;"
And the seedling from that moment
Its work of life began.

So it pushed a little leaflet
Up into the light of day,
To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way.

The leaflet liked the prospect,
So it called its brother, Stem;
Then two other leaflets heard it,
And quickly followed them.

To be sure, the haste and hurry
Made the seedling sweat and pant;
But almost before it knew it
It found itself a plant.

The sunshine poured upon it,
And the clouds they gave a shower;
And the little plant kept growing
Till it found itself a flower.

Little folks, be like the seedling,
Always do the best you can;
Every child must share life's labor
Just as well as every man.

And the sun and showers will help you
Through the lonesome, struggling hours,
Till you raise to light and beauty
Virtue's fair, unfading flowers.

Joseph has a great idea to get you writing nature poems – see over for details



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Nature is everywhere: even in the most built up city centre you can spot plants sprouting in the cracks of the pavements, little flowers growing between bricks, leaves blowing on the wind, birds flying in the sky, clouds making different shapes, the sun blazing down, rain falling, insects buzzing.

All these things might inspire you to write poetry!

Find a big leaf.

Look at the different colours in the leaf, is it green?

If so, what kind of green?

Look closer – are there other colours at the edges, or near the stem?

Smell the leaf, what does it smell like? What shape is the leaf?

Use a felt-tip pen to write down your thoughts about the leaf

- on the leaf itself. You can also write lots of words on many leaves.

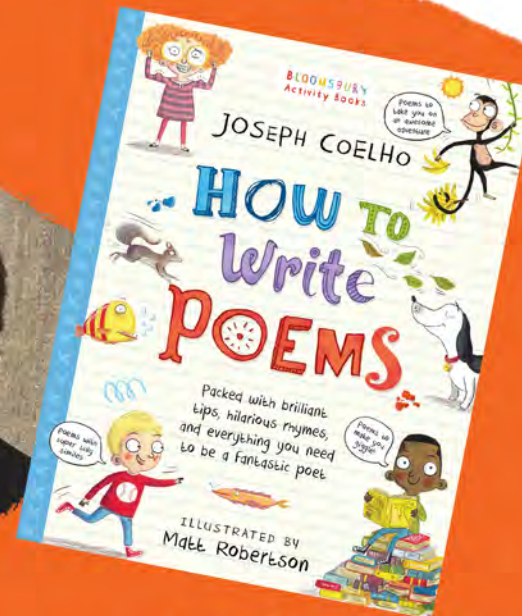
When you have finished writing, collect all your leaves and stick them together, on a piece of paper, to create a poem made out of leaves.



Send your poems and photos of your poetry displays to poetryday@forwardartsfoundation.org



Visit www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk to find out more about National Poetry Day



There are lots more excellent writing activities guaranteed to get poems flowing in Joseph Coelho's book *How To Write Poems*.

Thanks to Joseph and to Bloomsbury Children's Books for letting us share this.

