

POETRY ALOUD

POETRY
SPEAKING
2018
COMPETITION



P Poetry
Ireland
Éigse
Éireann

nli Leabharlann
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann
National Library
of Ireland

 **UCC**
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

WHAT IS POETRY ALOUD?

Poetry Aloud is an annual poetry speaking competition open to all post-primary students on the island of Ireland. It is organised by Poetry Ireland and the National Library of Ireland in partnership with University College Cork. The competition welcomes entries from students in post-primary schools on the island of Ireland. Poems are to be spoken from memory at all stages of the competition.

ABOUT US

POETRY IRELAND connects people and poetry. We are committed to achieving excellence in the reading, writing and performance of poetry throughout the island of Ireland. Poetry Ireland receives support from The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and we enjoy rewarding partnerships with arts centres, festivals, schools, colleges and bookshops at home and abroad. Our commitment to creating performance and publication opportunities for poets at all stages of their careers helps ensure that the best work is made available to the widest possible audience, securing a future for Irish poetry that is as celebrated as its past.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND collects and makes available the shared memory of the Irish nation at home and abroad caring for more than 10 million items, including books, newspapers, manuscripts, prints, drawings, ephemera, photographs and digital media. Poets from WB Yeats to Seamus Heaney have used the National Library's reading rooms, and the literary papers of many poets are part of the library's manuscripts collections. The creativity and legacy of WB Yeats and Seamus Heaney is celebrated in the exhibitions: Yeats: the life and work of William Butler Yeats (www.nli.ie/yeats) and Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again. Participants from Poetry Aloud are included in the spoken voice areas in the Yeats exhibition and in the World War Ireland exhibition.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK has a very rich connection with poetry. It is the *alma mater* of many of Ireland's finest contemporary poets including Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Thomas McCarthy, Paul Durcan and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, and many others, and is proud of the ongoing achievements of contemporary poets like Graham Allen, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, Leanne O'Sullivan, and Martin Veiga who teach at UCC and cultivate new generations of poets across many languages. UCC's commitment to Poetry Aloud aims to significantly expand the competition's reach into all 32 counties, exposing many more students to a wide range of poems and poets in a creative and supportive atmosphere.

PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES

JUNIOR:	1st and 2nd year from Republic of Ireland & years 8, 9 and 10 from Northern Ireland
INTERMEDIATE:	3rd and 4th year from Republic of Ireland & years 11 and 12 from Northern Ireland
SENIOR:	5th and 6th year from Republic of Ireland & Upper and Lower 6th forms from Northern Ireland

REGIONAL HEATS

9 - 26 October

At various venues around the country

Participants are required to speak TWO poems:

ONE poem from this prescribed list

Junior Category: *The Light Fantastic* by Kate Dempsey

Intermediate Category: *Family* by Vona Groarke

Senior Category: *Postscript* by Seamus Heaney

and ONE poem from the prescribed anthologies listed below.

POEMS MUST BE CHOSEN FROM THESE PRESCRIBED ANTHOLOGIES:

The Rattle Bag edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes (Faber and Faber, 1982)

Lifelines: Letters from Famous People About Their Favourite Poem
edited by Niall MacMonagle (Any edition)

Windharp: Poems of Ireland since 1916 edited by Niall MacMonagle
(Paperback, Penguin Ireland, 2016)

CHOSEN POEMS IN ALL STAGES OF THE COMPETITIONS MUST BE:

Not more than 35–40 lines in any category. Not less than 12 lines.

SEMI-FINALS

21/22/23 NOVEMBER

National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Participants are required to speak TWO poems:

ONE from this prescribed list:

Junior Category: *To a Child Dancing in the Wind* by William Butler Yeats

Intermediate Category: *The Great Blasket Island* by Julie O'Callaghan

Senior Category: *The Angel of History* by Theo Dorgan

and ONE poem chosen from the prescribed anthologies listed above.

FINAL

7 December

National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Participants are required to speak TWO poems:

ONE poem from this prescribed list

Junior Category: *May* by Kerry Hardie

Intermediate Category: *Bogland* by Seamus Heaney

Senior Category: *The Rain Stick* by Seamus Heaney

and ONE poem from the prescribed anthologies listed above.

When Seamus Heaney won the David Cohen Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Literature, he nominated Poetry Aloud for the accompanying Clarissa Luard Award, and he remarked, 'I truly believe Poetry Aloud deserves all the support it can get, because it promotes literature, and, in particular, poetry, widely, intimately and to inestimable effect. But fundamentally, I choose it because it brings poetry into the memory and affections of the young in a way that will make it a lifelong possession and value.'

Poem Selection:

- Participants must adhere to the poem selection criteria as outlined on this form
- Poems on the prescribed lists cannot be used at any other stage of the competition
- For the chosen poem round in the final, participants cannot repeat the chosen poem from the semi-final stage. Failure to comply with this condition will render the performance ineligible for adjudication

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday 21 September 2018

WHAT DOES THE COMPETITION INVOLVE?

The competition has three stages: regional heats which will take place during October; the semi-finals on 21/22/23 November, and the final which will take place on Friday 7 December in The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Regional Heats

Regional heats will take place from 9 – 26 October in Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Killarney, Kilkenny, Limerick, Monaghan, Mullingar, Sligo, Tipperary and Waterford.* Participants will be expected to speak TWO poems: ONE prescribed poem & ONE chosen poem from the prescribed anthologies.

**This is a provisional listing and location will depend on entry levels. Entrants will be assigned a centre when all entries have been received, towards the end of September/beginning of October.*

Semi-Finals

The semi-finals will take place from 21 – 23 November in The National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Participants in the semi-final will be expected to speak TWO poems, ONE of their own choosing from the prescribed anthologies and ONE from the prescribed list.

Final

The final will take place on Friday 7 December in The National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Participants will speak TWO poems: ONE compulsory poem & ONE poem of their own choosing from the prescribed anthologies. To adhere to the rules of the competition, participants cannot repeat the chosen poem from the semi-final.

Winners and Awards

There will be a winner from each of the three categories. Each category winner will receive €300 and book tokens to the value of €300 for the winner's school library. An overall winner will be chosen from the three category winners and will receive a further €200, the Seamus Heaney perpetual trophy and a signed book of poetry. The runner up in each category will receive a book token. Certificates of participation will be presented to all finalists.

ENTRY FORM

To enter, complete this entry form and return it to:

**Poetry Aloud Competition, Learning & Outreach,
The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2**

Submission of entry form implies acceptance of the conditions set out below.

The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday 21 September 2018.

Terms and Conditions for Entering the Competition:

- There is no entry fee
- Any pupil resident on the island of Ireland is eligible
- To enter you must be attending a post-primary school
- Poems must be spoken from memory
- Poem selection criteria applies at all stages of the competition
- The use of props is not permitted
- Participants must be accompanied by a parent / guardian / teacher
- The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence of any kind will be entered into
- For entries to be valid, the forms must be completed, signed and sent to arrive no later than Friday 21 September 2018 to Poetry Aloud, Learning & Outreach, The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

TEACHER'S NAME

SCHOOL'S NAME & ADDRESS

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE

TEACHER'S EMAIL*

TEACHER'S CONTACT NO.

*All correspondence regarding the competition & heats will be by email. Please provide a current email address. Contact details will be used only for correspondence relating to this competition.

ACCOMPANYING ADULT, IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE

Please list the students that you are entering:

NAME	CATEGORY	YEAR (OR CLASS)

ADDITIONAL ENTRIES: Please type NAME, CATEGORY and YEAR (CLASS) of the other students that you are entering in this format on a separate sheet and attach to form or you may photocopy this page.