

POETRY TOGETHER

A project by Gyles Brandreth
and Dukes Education

2024

Format of the day
and workshop
preferences



Gyles Brandreth

Biog: Gyles Brandreth is the founder of Poetry Together. A prolific author of children's books, including Poetry For Children, his anthology of poetry to learn by heart, Dancing By The Light Of The Moon, is published by Penguin Books. Gyles is also a regular on This Morning, Celebrity Gogglebox, and Just a Minute and his latest celebration of words and language is called Prose & Cons, the English Language in Just a Minute, published by BBC Books.

Workshop: In his workshop, Gyles is going to be inviting everyone who takes part to learn and perform some new comic poems with him and to learn to write their own humorous verse. He has written the shortest poem ever written, and with a bit of luck, he may be persuaded to perform it. (The title of the Poem is actually longer than the poem itself!) For a creative session of laughter and poetry, do join Gyles.

Steven Camden aka Polarbear

Biog: Steven is an internationally acclaimed spoken word artist, award winning author, poet and storyteller from Smethwick, near Birmingham. Since first stepping on stage in 2004, he has performed, presented and led creative projects from Manchester to Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur to California.

He writes novels, plays, screenplays and poems celebrating his mixed heritage and the amazing people he grew up around, placing his participatory practise and use of story in educational and community settings at the core of all his work. Find out more at www.bearstories.org

Workshop: Join Steven for an interactive workshop about how to remove the pressure of writing and zoom in on a moment to create poems and stories full of emotion and detail.





Laura Mucha

Biog: Laura Mucha is an ex-lawyer turned poet and Author-in-Residence in the Department of Public Health & Primary Care, University of Cambridge. Her writing has won multiple international awards and been featured on TV, radio and public transport, as well as in hospitals, hospices, prisons, books, magazines and newspapers around the world.

Her books have been described as 'stunningly original' by BookTrust, 'fantastic' by the Daily Mail, 'brilliant' by the Telegraph, 'a must for every school library and classroom' by The School Librarian and 'a marvellous feat' by Richard Curtis. When not writing, Laura spends her time visiting schools around the world and working with organisations such as the Royal Society of Medicine, National Literacy Trust and UNICEF to try to improve the lives of children.

Workshop: Do you ever feel like your brain is a thought machine, endlessly spitting out thoughts? Have you ever wondered what other people's thought machines come up with? Join poet Laura Mucha to come up with ideas, co-write and edit a poem about how our minds work. There will be voting, cutting, adding, moving, and shaking. But by the time you leave, you will have a much better idea of what writing and editing poetry is all about – and hopefully also, the human mind! And you will have helped write a finished poem!



Joseph Coelho

Biog: Joseph Coelho OBE is a best-selling, multi-award winning children's playwright and author of over 45 books. His *The Boy Lost in The Maze* was the winner of the 2024 Carnegie Medal for writing and has received international acclaim appearing on the White Raven Book list - Munich, The IBBY UK Honour Books List and awarded *The Extraordinary Book of 2023* by The International Children's Literature Festival of Berlin. Joseph was the Waterstone's Children's Laureate 2022 - 2024.

Workshop: Join Joseph Coelho as he shares some fun and simple ways of creating a poem using a range of different poetic devices from metaphors to similes from lines of alliteration to verse fizzing with onomatopoeia. This will be a fun and dynamic session accessible to all.

Coral Rumble



Biog: Coral is a popular poet and performer, who won the prestigious 'Caterpillar Poetry Prize' in 2018. Her collection, *Riding a Lion*, was shortlisted for the North Somerset Teachers' Book Awards, 2020, and she won the 'Spark! School Book Awards', 2023, with her collection, *Things That Should Be in a Poem*. Her verse novel, *Little Light*, was shortlisted for a UKLA Award, 2023. She has had 5 poetry collections published, alongside other books. Her debut novel for children, *Jakub's Otter*, is out now!

Michael Rosen - 'Rumble has a dash and delight about her work'.

Workshop: YOU'VE BEEN FRAMED!

Get your thoughts racing and your words pacing, as you dig up days gone by and sketch out the memories. Enjoy the time and space to revisit important moments, as drawing and words work together.



Matt Goodfellow

Biog: Matt is an award-winning poet from Manchester. He was supposed to be a rock star but wasn't very good at it. He worked as a primary school teacher for over 10 years before embarking on his poetry career

Workshop: Poetry as Rebel Writing - explore why poetry doesn't follow the same rules as any other kind of writing and why accent and dialect can allow you to express your thoughts, feelings and idea in 'your voice' .



Claire Dyer

Biog: Claire Dyer's poetry collections are published by Two Rivers Press, her novels by Quercus, The Dome Press, Matador and Pegasus. Her latest novel is 'What We Thought We Knew', and a further collection, 'The Adjustments', was published by Two Rivers Press in April 2024. She teaches creative writing and runs Fresh Eyes, an editorial and critiquing service. She is Poetry Consultant to the Council of the SWWJ, Reviews Co-ordinator for Two Rivers Press, has an MA in Creative Writing from Royal Holloway, University of London and is represented by Broo Doherty at DHH Literary Agency. Her website is: www.clairedyer.com'

Workshop: 'Line by Line: let's build a poem about friendship. This workshop is designed to celebrate both poetry and friendship. In it we will look at and discuss some poems about friendship, and build an 8 line poem line by line which hopefully some of the participants will be willing to share by reading their poem out loud.

Format of the day...



	Group 1	Group 2
9.30-10.00	Arrival and registration	
10.00-10.45	Welcome	Arrival and registration
10.45-11.30	Workshop 1	Welcome
11.30-12.15	Lunch	Workshop 1
12.15-12.30	Lunch	Lunch
12.30-1.15	Workshop 2	Lunch
1.15-2.00	Performances	Workshop 2
2.00-2.45	Departure	Performances
2.45		Departure

