

## This year National Poetry Day falls on **Thursday October 8th** and our theme is **Heroes and Heroines**.

If you're celebrating National Poetry Day in the classroom, then our website carries lesson plans to help you share the pleasures of poetry with children of all age groups. Simply visit [www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk](http://www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk) and go to our Education page to see detailed lesson plans by poet Mandy Coe.

There are plenty of ideas for adults too – look at our listings to find events near you celebrating Heroes and Heroines of poetry, of politics, of sport – or simply showcasing poetry in all its forms and flavours.

To get children excited by poetry why not try these ideas:

- Celebrate a poetry hero with readings from their work – Robert Burns, William Wordsworth, Adrian Mitchell. If there is a local statue or building in their honour, why not have a class visit and read poems there?
- Make it into a fancy-dress occasion: ask smaller children to dress up as their favourite superhero.
- With older children, try writing poetry about heroes or heroines of their own.
- Choose a poetry book to read in class and at home. There are plenty of excellent children's anthologies – look at our site for recommendations.

However you celebrate National Poetry Day, please tell us about it – send us a picture or a summary of what you did, and let us know your thoughts about how we can make National Poetry Day better each year. Mail us at [info@nationalpoetryday.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalpoetryday.co.uk)

Here are some other sources of information:

**Academi** – comprehensive information on literature in Wales, including Welsh poetry and details of the National Poet of Wales, at [www.academi.org](http://www.academi.org) or 0292 0472266.

**Apples and Snakes** – [www.applesandsnakes.org](http://www.applesandsnakes.org) gives information on poets in schools, and live literature across England.

**Children's Poetry Archive** – [www.poetryarchive.org/childrensarchive](http://www.poetryarchive.org/childrensarchive) Sound recordings of poets reading their own work – showing the importance of reading poetry aloud.

**NAWE** – National Association of Writers in Education. Find a poet to visit your school or work on educational projects, at [www.nawe.co.uk](http://www.nawe.co.uk)

**Poetry Archive** – [www.poetryarchive.org](http://www.poetryarchive.org) lets you hear contemporary poetry read by the poet, online or on CD.

**Poetry Book Society** – resources for adults and children, a helpful beginner's guide and the Children's Poetry Bookshelf online at [www.poetrybooks.co.uk](http://www.poetrybooks.co.uk)

**Poetry Society** – [www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk) Educational resources, events and competitions plus a long-established journal.

**Scottish Poetry Library** – contemporary poetry in English, Scots and Gaelic, listings and resources including 'virtual poets' to explain more about poetry for children. Find them at [www.spl.org.uk](http://www.spl.org.uk) or on 0131 5572876

**Seamus Heaney Centre** – Northern Ireland's prime centre for the teaching and promotion of poetry is at [www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry](http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SeamusHeaneyCentreforPoetry)