

Poetry Websites

BBC Learning video clips

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips>

This site has a range of clips on many subjects but by selecting poetry as a topic you can find a treasure trove of clips. The secondary section is subdivided into Pre-1914, World War One and Post 1918. The primary section is smaller but still a rich resource. I loved hearing Brain Blessed perform Jabberwocky, an animated version of The lady of Shalott and Kit Wright reading The magic box.

Can I have a word with you?

www.canihaveaword.org.uk Created by the Barbican education team this site uses poetry as its main teaching tool and hosts newly commissioned work by Michael Rosen, Valerie Bloom and Beverley Naidoo amongst others. The site also offers a wide range of teaching materials from short videos, audio poems and downloadable classroom projections.

The Children's Poetry Archive

<http://www.poetryarchive.org/childrensarchive/home.do> This is a satellite site attached to the main online Poetry Archive. It enables you to search by theme, poet or poetic form. The best part is that it contains scores of audiofiles so that pupils can listen to poets reading their own poems. Children can also send in their own poems, the best of which appear in the regularly updated Poetry Gallery.

Paul Cookson

www.paulcooksonpoet.co.uk An attractive site from this popular performance poet and editor of several anthologies. Paul is also the writer in residence at the National Football Museum. The site has the usual biographical information and FAQ as well as poems which have yet to be published.

Perform a poem

<http://performapoem.lgfl.org.uk/> Former children's laureate Michael Rosen launched Perform-a-Poem, the first e-safe website for children's poetry performances in November 2009. Well-known for poetry performances of his own, Michael said: "I'm hoping that Perform-a-Poem will give an opportunity for children and teachers to experiment and play with poetry in an exciting way. All poems have a voice; sometimes this voice is best heard silently, but most poems enjoy being spoken and performed, because this is how we get to feel a poem."

The Poetry archive

www.poetryarchive.org

This is a fantastic resource especially because it can be searched by poet, poem title or theme. You can then download recordings of the poets reading their own work including historical recording of poets such as Tennyson and Auden.

The Poetry channel

www.thepoetrychannel.org.uk The site publishes high quality videos of poets reading their own work, some combined with animation, film or graphics. They are also introducing some poems performed by actors. Most of the content is more suitable for the secondary age range but some would be fine for Year 5/6.

The Poetry Society

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk> The Poetry Society website which has a vast array of up-to-date information on poetry and poets.

<http://www.poetryclass.net/> Part of the Poetry Society website, Poetryclass is an initiative to develop a comprehensive strategy for using poetry in the classroom.

<http://www.poetryclass.net/gcsepage.htm> Part of the Poetry Society website, this provides web links to Poets listed on the National Curriculum for English.

Poetry portal

<http://www.poetry-portal.com> Aimed at older students and adults this site is rich and varied in its content. You can try hypertext poetry where you have to engage with the poets and participate in the poems. In addition to European and American poetry there is a wide range of poetry from across the world, experimental poetry and archives of the more traditional forms. A vast site but enjoyable to explore.

Poetry zone

<http://www.poetryzone.co.uk> The poetry zone is produced by a group of poets and includes interviews with famous poets, a gallery of poems sent in to the site, a regularly updated challenge to write a poem, links to other sites, a teacher's page and much more!

Michael Rosen

<http://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/hypnotiser.html> The great poetry book The Hypnotiser is now out of print, so Michael Rosen has had the inspired idea of asking his son Joe to produce a video of himself performing all the poems from the book. Michael is also adding YouTube videos of himself performing poems. What a fabulous free resource!

The following sites are useful if you are trying to trace a specific poem but only know a line or phrase from it:

www.bartleby.com/verse/ The verse section of Great Books Online. There are thousands of poems in the database by famous poets i.e. those long since dead whose works are out of copyright. As it is often well known poems which are half-remembered, this may prove a useful source. The database includes the full text of classic anthologies such as Palgrave's Golden Treasury and the Oxford Book of English Verse as well as editions of the works of individual poets e.g. Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley etc. It also includes the complete works of Shakespeare.

www.bibliomania.com/ A similar source, although much more limited in its poetry content, is Bibliomania. Again there is free access to poems which are out of copyright.

Modern poetry is much more difficult to find because much of it is still within copyright. It is, however, always worth trying a search for the phrase or line in question on one of the Internet search engines such as Google www.google.co.uk. Many poems are quoted in full on web sites (probably illegally) so a search engine may have visited the site and indexed the text. Just remember to enclose the text in double quotation marks when you search so that the search engine knows that it is searching for the exact phrase.