

# The John Clare Trust

## The Annual John Clare Poetry Prize

### Background Information

#### Who is John Clare?

John Clare is one of the finest poets of the English countryside. Born at the end of the 18th Century, Clare wrote at a time of great change for those living in rural regions as the Industrial Revolution began its transformation of the British landscape. In his poems, he describes his distress at the erosion of rural traditions and ways of life. An agricultural worker all his life, the effect of industrialisation was particularly harsh for Clare and his poetry encapsulates his feelings of anger, dismay and sorrow as his way of life was gradually destroyed.

Much of Clare's poetry was seasonally themed, providing vivid glimpses into the cycle of the years in the pre-industrialised world.

#### How can Clare be incorporated into the curriculum?

Clare's Poetry and the context of industrialising eastern England in which he wrote it, provides fertile ground for historical investigation, poetry analysis and cross curricular ventures.

Clare provides an ideal figure on which to base a local study examining the effects of the Industrial Revolution.

In the English classroom, the form and content of Clare's poetry can be studied and is particularly relevant to Key Stage 4 pupils. His sonnets in particular are regarded as providing excellent examples of this arrangement and are used by exam boards at GCSE level.

## Title and Theme

This year sees the third annual poetry prize in association with National Poetry Day. The John Clare Trust 'Home' Poetry Prize hopes to give you the opportunity, just as John Clare over 140 years ago, to consider and express what you think about "Home" and what it means to you.

## Rules

### 11 years and under

#### Rules

- ♦ Use the Home as your theme.
- ♦ Maximum 20 lines on one side of A4 paper.
- ♦ The competition is open to anyone aged 11years or under.
- ♦ The decision of the judges is final
- ♦ Entry is conditional on finalists attending readings on [17th July 2010](#) in Helpston Peterborough and [7th October 2010](#) Westminster London.



**Don't forget:**

**Closing time and date is: NOON ON Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

### 18 years and under

#### Rules

- ♦ Use the Home as your theme.
- ♦ Maximum 20 lines on one side of A4 paper.
- ♦ The competition is open to anyone aged 18years or under.
- ♦ The decision of the judges is final
- ♦ Entry is conditional on finalists attending readings on [17th July 2010](#) in Helpston Peterborough and [7th October 2010](#) Westminster London.



**Don't forget:**

**Closing time and date is: NOON ON Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010**

### Adults

#### Rules

- ♦ Use the Home as your theme.
- ♦ Maximum 20 lines on one side of A4 paper.
- ♦ The competition is open to anyone aged 18+years.
- ♦ The decision of the judges is final
- ♦ Entry is conditional on finalists attending readings on [17th July 2010](#) in Helpston Peterborough and [7th October 2010](#) Westminster London.



**Don't forget:**

**Closing time and date is: NOON ON Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010**

# Genera

## Rules

1. Entry to this competition implies acceptance of the rules. Any breach of the rules of the competition will incur disqualification.
2. Submitted poems must be the original work of the person making the submission. The poem, or any section of it, must not have been published, self-published, broadcast, or been published on line previously.
3. Poems must be submitted in English.
4. There is a maximum number of 20 lines per poem, typed and printed in 16 point arial on A4 paper OR hand written on A4 paper. We will also accept audio submissions where it is an access requirement, but this must remain the equivalent of twenty lines. Please do not send audio under any other circumstances than as an access requirement, and please ensure that the entrant's name is not on any audio version of poems entered. It must of course be featured on the accompanying entry form. We are not able to return copies of poems submitted to us – please do not send your only copy of any poem.
5. Each poem must be given a title.
6. All poems are judged anonymously and the name of the poet, or any other identifying mark or indicator, must not appear on the manuscript.
7. Only one poem per person.
8. Each poem will be judged separately.
9. Entries will only be accepted when accompanied by an entry form (forms may be photocopied), hard copy in the post. One entry form covers multiple entries. Competition entries cannot be returned under any circumstances.
10. Alterations cannot be made to poems after they have been submitted.
11. Receipt of postal entries will only be confirmed if a Stamped Addressed Envelope or postcard is enclosed with the entry. The SAE must clearly state 'RECEIPT' on it. The competition organisers are NOT able to confirm receipt of entries via telephone.
12. The competition organizers reserve the right to change the panel at any time.
13. The competition organisers reserve the right to award no winning poem should such a situation arise.
14. The judge's decision is final and we regret that no correspondence can be entered into. We are not able to give individual feedback.
15. No employee of The John Clare Trust may enter this competition.
16. Envelopes containing entries must be clearly addressed to 'The John Clare Poetry Prize'.

## **Results**

We aim to publish the results on our website by 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010. [www.clarecottage.org](http://www.clarecottage.org)

## **Copyright**

Worldwide copyright of the poems will remain with the authors, but The John Clare Trust will have the unrestricted right to publish the poems, or excerpts of the poems, on its website, in promotional and marketing materials, in organisational reports, on the websites of participating arts organisations

## **How to enter**

All entries must be accompanied by an entry form. Please remember not to include your name on the poem.

Entry is by post to:

The John Clare Trust  
John Clare Poetry Prize  
Clare Cottage  
Woodgate  
Helpston  
PE6 7ED.

**If you require this information in another format or for assistance in completing your entry.**

[www.clarecottage.org](http://www.clarecottage.org) / [events@clarecottage.org](mailto:events@clarecottage.org)

**Tel: 01733 253330**

