

The John Clare Trust

The John Clare Poetry Prize – Teachers Guide

The John Clare Poetry Prize offers students from all Key stages the opportunity to explore the rich works of the celebrated local poet John Clare.

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 "Home" themed, providing vivid glimpses into his life and family. The John Clare 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..

How can Clare be incorporated into the curriculum?

Clare's Poetry and the context of social history 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 home life, then and now.

Clare wrote at a time of great change for those living in rural homes 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 the Enclosures was particularly harsh for Clare, his family and home life and his poetry encapsulates his feelings of anger, dismay and sorrow as his way of life was gradually eroded.

Key Information about the competition

- Pupils between year aged 11 and under, 18 and under as well as Adults are eligible to enter
- Entrants will be judged in 1 of the 3 categories.
- 4 finalists will be chosen from each age category.
- Finalists will be invited to read their poems in Westminster on National Poetry Day 7th October 2010.
- Maximum 20 lines on one side A4 only
- Entry into the competition allows The John Clare Trust to publish onto their website and media publication use in part or whole.
- Finalists – it will be the responsibility of the schools to seek the permission of the child's legal guardian for them to attend the finals in Helpston in July and London in October and use of images etc.

How to enter

- Teachers should complete the attached form and send with submissions to be received no later than the deadline stated.
- All Submissions must include:
 1. Category
 2. Name of School
 3. Name of Teacher
 4. Name of Entrant and age.

Category	Deadline for submissions
11 and under	30 th June 2010
18 and under	30 th June 2010
Adult over 18	30 th June 2010

Entries must be sent to:

**The John Clare Trust
Poetry Prize
Clare Cottage
Woodgate
Helpston
PE 6 7ED**

ENTRY FORM

Category of Entry	
Name of School	
Contact Name	
Contact Telephone Number	
Contact Email Address	
Address of School	
Number of Entries	
<u>Names of Entrants</u>	
1.....	16.....
2.....	17.....
3.....	18.....
4.....	19.....
5.....	20.....
6.....	21.....
7.....	22.....
8.....	23.....
9.....	24Please photocopy for additional entrants

10.....	25.....
11.....	26.....
12.....	27.....
13.....	28.....
14.....	29.....
15.....	30.....
