

PLATANOS COLLEGE NATIONAL POETRY DAY

28th September 2017

Cover illustrated by Maryam Abdullah, 8D





On the 28th September 2017, pupils across Year 7 and 8 in Platanos College celebrated National Poetry Day by reading and discussing some famous poetry and then producing their own poems. National Poetry Day is a yearly celebration that recognises and celebrates poetry; it invites people across the country to engage and discover poems. It was founded in 1994 and has engaged pupils up and down the country ever since. In the past, the competition has covered a range of themes, including stars, remembrance, history and light. This year's National Poetry Day celebrated the theme of **freedom**.

The English department selected eleven winners in total from Key Stage 3. The names of those pupils selected are listed below. Their work is showcased in this booklet as a celebration of all the excellent work produced.

Year 7 winners:

- D'Andre Arthur, 7A
- Fatmata Fofanah, 7B
- Rihanna John, 7B
- Theo Mclean, 7B
- Joshua Lewis, 7D
- Rahima Abdullah, 7D

Year 8 winners:

- Alifiya Ogboyi, 8A
- Ana Pereira, 8A
- Damian Telvak, 8C
- Shantara Williams, 8D
- Nadira Mohamud, 8H

'Today and Tomorrow' by D'Andre Arthur, 7A

Today

Awake.

Trapped.

War is stalking me – hunting me.

His sinister sneer haunting me like a ghost.

Putting on my uniform – a chicken in the face of a fox will be braver than me.

Tomorrow. Her nerve soothing me but making me homesick.

Imprisonment creeping closer and closer.

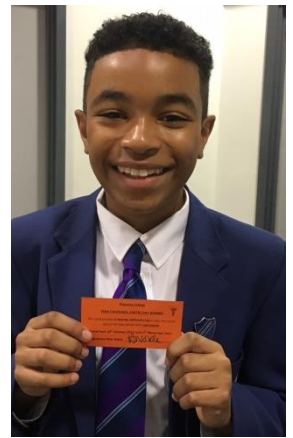
Slowly poisoning me.

Tomorrow

Freedom.

Joy and happiness.

Now I may laugh in fear's fat face.



'Freedom' by Fatmata Fofanah, 7B

I

The curtains have opened,
Doors have unlocked,
Flowers have emerged,
Freedom is the air,
Peace in the world, quietness and love,
This is what you call freedom.

II

Heaven has been sent down,
Love is in the air,
The heart of a cloud,
Freedom. Freedom
shall come down no matter what,
The wind shall sway, in the beautiful
may
This is what you call freedom.

III

Freedom shall overtake,
No matter what,
Don't let hatred take over,
Like a devil, in its black doom
Justice shall start
Discrimination shall stop
Freedom, freedom,
This is what you call freedom.



'FREEDOM!' by Rihanna John, 7B

Let us bring peace,
Unlock all the chains.
Help us fit all the pieces,
So that we can all become a community.
Freedom let us all have it.

Everyday, people are locked away
Behind loads of bars
Families split up going in different ways
At night they look up to the stars.

Stop the racist comments
Stop the sexism
Let all of us be treated equally
Freedom – we deserve it.

Don't be greedy
We all want the same amount of respect
Our voice shall be heard
No one is too fat, too small, too skinny.

We are a team
Strong people we are
Working together as one
We are not followers or leaders
Freedom - we will get it.

Let us bring peace,
Unlock all the chains.
Help us fit all the pieces,
So that we can all become a community.
Freedom let us all have it.



'Freedom's Fight' by Theo Mclean, 7B

From the shackles that bind thee
To the wings that set me free
I fly.

Higher than a kite, a butterfly in flight;
A steed in freedom's might
Despite not being free.

They spout nonsense at me
Saying you'll never truly be free
But I reside in the way
That the day doesn't let me be me.

Trapped in darkness, scared and alone
Time after time being forced out of home.

The smell on the breeze
The truly unsubsidizing need
To be thee
Thee who does not yield
Is protected by freedom's shield.

The feeling of freedom is light
Despite being shackled and night
But freedom is a part of me
That will never be away from thee.



'Freedom' by Joshua Lewis, 7D

How can the likes of us be free?
Indeed the essence of our state is comical.
Considering the wealth of dreams will breed...

While under law that has decreed so it seems rational to be cynical.
How can the likes of us be free? Indeed.

Reality and what we need appear entirely inimical,
Considering the wealth of dreams we breed.

Against our dreams perhaps we should concede.
The flame of liberty is mythical.
How can the likes of us be free? Indeed.

Our being rides on imperceptible steeds that move
into a realm that's not physical
considering the wealth of dreams they breed.

Whereupon this contemplation must lead
around of view that it's mystical.
How can the likes of us be free?



'Freedom' by Rahima Abdullah, 7D

If I were a bird, I would fly myself free of this place.
I would go far past infinity into the distance of forever.
And stay there for the rest of eternity.
The wind between my feathers.
The sun firing back igniting my loosened soul.

I would break my chained restraints
And forget all of my problems.
Touching the clouds as I want.
If I were a bird I would use my wings to fly, just to know
freedom isn't a lie.
Like the winter sun, like the sound of a feel-good melody,
like a drive on an open road.
In the summer, like the cool shade of a tree,
like sleeping in on a chilly morning like freedom
and living carefree is how I feel every single time.



'Wings' by Alifiya Ogboyi, 8A

So how do you have freedom?
How are you able to
spread your wings and fly
to safety when you are
falling?

Is there some sort of test
to see if you're eligible
for freedom? I wonder if
it's given to you, perhaps
you have to take it.

How do you find your wings?
Maybe sometimes you have to
take the risk and throw
yourself off a roof
and see if your
wings will save you. Then there
is the issue of not having
your wings, maybe you will grow
them, maybe you will one day find them.

When you find them, you
will feel you can do anything.
You have freedom.

You.

Have.

WINGS.



'I will be free' by Ana Pereira, 8A

I feel like a trapped tiger,
trying to break free,
Yet my head remains unbowed,
I will continue to fight,
Someday I will be free.

I am a tiger,
Fighting for my life,
My pride is strong,
Like a tiger
I'll fight 'til the end.
And I will continue to fight,
soon I'll be free.

My spirit remains unbroken,
I haven't lost my will,
I stand and fight,
Because I chose this,
I will be free.

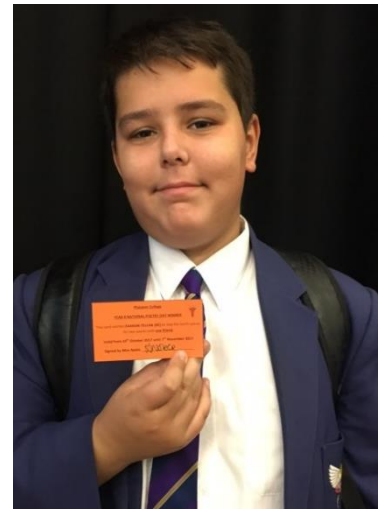
I am now a bird,
No longer a tiger, bound to the ground no longer,
I fly unchained,
You see?
I broke through,
I'm FREE.



'Freedom' by Damian Telvak, 8C

A drip of water in the ocean
A man in devotion.
Love and fear,
waiting for despair
A bird in a nest learning to fly.
A baby learning to say goodbye.
Being restrained is the way to hatred,
Being free is what life needs to be
Being free with your will
Living life with a thrill.

Freedom.



'Free yourself' by Shantara Williams, 8D

I was born in a body I thought was not mine,
I got up one day and felt like I was losing my mind,
Freedom of speech,
Freedom is mine.

A mother's love is unconditional,
A father's love is strong,
But self love is the best – it can free you from stress.
Freedom of speech,
Freedom is mine.

I've learnt how to smile,
I've learnt how to love,
I've learnt to set my spirit free,
To fly above.
Freedom of speech,
Freedom is mine.



'What is Freedom?' by Nadira Mohamud, 8H

Years of not being allowed to have feelings,
Years of not being allowed to cry,
Years of no emotions.

Being sold like merchandise,
Being abused like wild animals,
Being like an animal.

A noble man read the mist of us all.
He spoke the words of freedom,
He switched the light on the room.



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Pupils are encouraged to think
creatively and become
independent learners who are
able to think for themselves.

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