

01/06/2020

Dear Parents,

Stephen Spender Prize

We are delighted to share with you an upcoming opportunity for your son to take part in a competition run by Oxford University. The Stephen Spender Prize is free to enter for all young people, regardless of linguistic skill or background but we would recommend your son chooses a poem in one of the languages he studies. The competition has 3 age categories:

- 14 and under
- 16 and under
- 18 and under

To enter, students translate a poem from any language into English and write a short commentary about it. It is task-based and can be completed independently so is ideal for remote learning.

The deadline is **17 July**, so there is plenty of time to get involved. Group entries are permitted, so students can work together on a translation if they prefer. If your son would like to work in a small group, please ask him to get in touch with Miss Lawson, Mrs Whybourn or Mrs Javaid. He can also join the relevant team in Microsoft Teams by signing up with this code: **8y3suas** (Your son just needs to go to Teams and choose the 'Join or create Team option'). It has a lot of examples and tutorials which are very helpful.

Youth Prize entry guidelines

Students submit an English translation of a published poem from any language, together with a commentary of no more than 300 words giving 3 examples of difficult decisions they had to make when translating the poem and explaining how they overcame them. For example, the commentary could discuss:

- A particular word or phrase which presented a challenge to translate
- A cultural reference which needed to be adapted in translation
- Any particular problems presented by the style/form of the original poem. For example, if the original is in a particular form such as rhyme or regular metre, was it possible to preserve that form in English or did you decide to make changes?

Please note that the commentary will be judged on content rather than style. The translation should be no more than 60 lines (extracts are accepted).

The poem can be from any language, ancient or modern. We want to celebrate poetry in all its forms and genres – texts from **rap, spoken word and slam poetry** are eligible and very welcome. Entries must still be in written form but any commended entrants from rap/spoken word/slam genres would later be invited to make a video, should they wish, for publication on the Prize website and social media channels.

We hope this inspires your son to take part. If he would like support, please ask him to get in touch with Miss Lawson (skl@rgshw.com), Mrs Whybourn (czw@rgshw.com) or Mrs Javaid (cej@rgshw.com).

Kind regards

Sabrina Lawson

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