

Menna Elfyn

Key

Autobiog

1. c 2.a 3.a 4. c 5. b 6. a 7.c 8. b

Children's Laureate

(Corrected prepositions underlined) Hint: Sts to work in pairs/3s and write down separately all the prepositions they think are wrong. Not to attempt to correct at this stage. When they have 10 or as many as they can find only then do they start to replace them with correct versions. Possibly more than one answer – although this will possibly mean at least one preposition 'left over' at the end.

Menna Elfyn chosen as Children's Laureate

The writer who has brought literature in Welsh to the attention of the world was yesterday chosen as Children's Laureate.

For the coming year, Menna Elfyn, a columnist with the Western Mail, will cut down on her travels to teach her craft to the young, encouraging them to write and enjoy poetry.

Ms Elfyn, a mother of two, is currently holding a week-long writers' workshop at the Ty Newydd centre in Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth.

She succeeds Myrddin ap Dafydd and Meirion McIntyre Huws in a project run by the Urdd, S4C and the Welsh Books Council in a scheme that has flourished since 1999.

Ms Elfyn's work will soon be seen by children in every school in Wales. "I have been commissioned to write some work to go on posters which will be distributed to every school," she said.

Ms Elfyn will also prepare a half-hour television programme in which she hopes she will be able to incorporate work from some of the children she will work with.

For the Urdd, Ms Elfyn will write work for their magazine Cip and book club Sbondonics. And she will also help with a touring programme prepared by the books council.

In the past, the Laureate has held workshops in unusual locations. "There have been visits to the Millenium Stadium, the National Botanic Garden and King Arthur's Labyrinth in Corris," said an Urdd official.

Ms Elfyn, who has toured schools holding workshops for some years, and has written several novels for teenagers, said, "It is such a delight to be chosen."

She is the poet in Welsh best known outside Wales. She has always been keen to publish bilingual editions of her poems, with translations into English by leading bilingual poets, and enthusiastic about addressing English audiences, recently returning from Ohio University.

Welsh Language

The purpose of this exercise is not, of course, to teach any Welsh! It is to familiarise students with the unfamiliar word formation, and to recognise that Welsh is not simply an English dialect, but a language which has almost no connection with English at all.

Map exercise: any identification will do, and incomplete translations (e.g. Llandudno, only the 'clearing' or 'early church' element will be known) are acceptable.

Pentre-llyn-llwyd: village of the grey lake

Llan-y-pwll: The pond (in?) the clearing

Coed-y-Bryn: The forest hill

Pentredwr: Water village

Llanbedd: Church grave

Whitechurch: Eglwys-y-gwyn (with or without the 'y')

Valleyhead Bridge: Pontepen

New Bridge: Pontenewydd

Riverhill: Brynafon

Moor Clearing: Llanrhos

Let the World's people sing

a baby bumping along

Babel

barbed-wire

creep

crouch

encumbered

excommunicated

sowing the seed

stumble

postpone

yoke

without heavy things or concepts to carry

be excluded or thrown out

creating something for future use

be unsure or unsteady

not able to walk properly

many languages

something which traps you into work

in a sitting position on the floor

put off until another time

go around without attracting attention

a fence with sharp metal points

Poem 2

Change 'Portugal' and 'Portuguese' for any appropriate language.