

# Old Possum's Children's Poetry Competition 2010



Illustration by Axel Scheffler

This poetry competition, run by Children's Poetry Bookshelf in partnership with the British Council, is open to children aged 7-8 and 9-11. The topic of this year's competition is **Home** – this is the theme of National Poetry Day which is celebrated in the United Kingdom on 7th October. Children living outside the UK who are learning English as a second or foreign language can enter the **International Learner** category of this competition.

Here are some ideas on the theme of 'Home' from the Teachers' Guide:

A home can be many things: a cave, a kangaroo's pouch, the Brazilian rain forest, a hut, a snail shell, a castle... They are all home to *someone or something*.

Write a shopping list for an actual home: a white front door, a blue kitchen table, a picture of an uncle, a silver can-opener. Include sounds and smells.

Think of four other places where we also feel at home... the country/town, in our body, our skin, in our own country rather than in a foreign country?

You can find more information about the competition on the British Council's LearnEnglish Kids website at [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids). If you would like to read last year's winning poems they are available here: <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/your-turn/old-possums-poetry-competition-2009>.

## Prizes

For both age groups, there are book prizes – 3 books for First Place, 2 books for Second Place and 1 book for Third Place. All the winning poems will be published on the Children's Poetry Bookshelf and the LearnEnglish Kids websites, as well as in a special presentation booklet which will be sent to the winning poets.

## How to enter

- If you are a teacher sending in several poems from children in your class, please use the class entry form which can be downloaded from the website.
- Entries will be accepted from **Friday 10th September**.
- Please submit your poems by post to **Old Possum's Competition, PO Box 28, Iddesleigh, Winkleigh, EX19 8WQ** or enter online via the website at [www.childrengpoetrybookshelf.co.uk](http://www.childrengpoetrybookshelf.co.uk).
- The closing date is **Friday 15th October** and poems must be no more than **25 lines**.

## Judging

Judging for the competition will be chaired by the UK poet **Roger McGough**.



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