

Views from Edinburgh

Context

Quiz

True or False?

Read the questions and decide whether you think they are true or false, and put a tick in the T or F column. Then bet between 10 and 100 on how sure you are that you are right. If you have the right answer, you win, and if you don't, guess what? (That's right, you lose!) Good luck.

QUESTION	T	F	Bet	Win	Lose
1. Edinburgh is in the north west of England					
2. There is an internationally famous festival every summer in Edinburgh					
3. You can visit the Royal ship, the Britannia, in Edinburgh					
4. When the Queen visits Edinburgh, she stays in the castle					
5. Edinburgh castle is built on an extinct volcano overlooking Princes Street Gardens					
6. You can see the Hogmanay fireworks in Princes Street Gardens on 31 st August every year					
7. The first Harry Potter book was written in an Edinburgh pub					
8. You can travel by bus and tram in Edinburgh					
9. Cult film <i>Trainspotting</i> is set in Edinburgh					
10. Celtic is the name of an Edinburgh football club					
Start with 100 and add everything you win; subtract everything you lose. <i>Tip – if you are not sure, bet 50 and then you don't win or lose too much!</i>	TOTAL:				

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The Royal Observatory Edinburgh

The Royal Observatory, in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, was _____(1) in 1786 to study the stars above us. After only 50 years, the first Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Thomas Henderson created the system where the _____(2) between Earth and the stars could be measured. Today, its beautiful buildings are a great monument, and it has become one of the world's leading astronomy research _____(3).

Over the years, the Observatory has been equipped with the _____(4) technology, and one of the largest libraries of astronomical books in the world. It has always led the world in building larger and more powerful telescopes. From here, scientists used their _____(5) to set up giant telescopes on remote mountain tops in Australia and Hawaii.

If you go to the Visitor Centre, you can see the UK Near Earth Object Information Centre. Many objects from space – such as comets and asteroids – have _____(6) the Earth over the last 4.5 billion years. Who knows when the next big object could arrive, with catastrophic results? At the Information Centre, you can find out how much _____(7) we are in, how governments are watching the skies, and what can be done if anything big is coming our way.

Also at the Visitor Centre, you can build and fly your own rocket at the Rocket Workshop. You can _____(8) closely at the Sun with special solar telescopes, or simply examine the planets and the Moon.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. a) started | b) established | c) begun | d) done |
| 2. a) distance | b) travel | c) kilometres | d) far |
| 3. a) places | b) buildings | c) centres | d) houses |
| 4. a) latest | b) new | c) modern | d) recent |
| 5. a) intelligence | b) knowledge | c) facts | |
| 6 .a) crashed | b) collided | c) smashed | |
| 7. a) risk | b) problem | c) danger | |
| 8 .a) look | b) see | c) examine | |



d) brains

d) hit

d) worry

d) watch

New Year – Edinburgh Style

New Year in Edinburgh is a world-class event, and the organisers claim it is the biggest party in the world.

Here is a description of some of the events that go on over four days. Put the names of the events in the right places, judging by the descriptions in each paragraph.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay The Best New Year Celebration in the World

This year's **Edinburgh's Hogmanay** was one of the best yet - the city was really buzzing.

We had four fabulous days and nights of fun!

On the 29th December, we set the city ablaze with thousands of people carrying burning lights down The Mound and up Calton Hill in the_____.

On the 30th, we partied like never before at the _____ with spectacular Catalonian street performers on George Street.

And on the 31st we birlled through the bells at _____ - with four stages of live music set against the backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.

_____ gave us an all star Scottish bands line up with Texas, KT Tunstall and El Presidente. And it didn't end there.

For the first time ever, we held a _____. Funky ceilidh bands rocked the dance floor and much Scottish reeling was done.

_____ were also reeling with the ever popular party held in the Assembly rooms. With a Ceilidh Room, a Dance Hall and guest DJ's in the Club Bar it was another night to remember.

For the more serene, the _____ at St. Giles' Cathedral offered an evening of sublime music in an historic setting.

And of course, at midnight, the _____ lit the night sky in one of the most impressive, multi-level displays yet.

On New Year's Day, the _____ blew away the cobwebs and for the seriously fit the _____ started the year with a challenge.

The Events:	The Royal Bank Street Party	Edinburgh Bicycle Triathlon	Torchlight Procession
	Candlelit Concert	The Concert in the Gardens	The Revels
	Ceilidh in the Gardens	Seven Hills Fireworks	Night Afore International
			One O'clock Run

Ceilidh – concert of traditional Scottish/Celtic music

Views from Edinburgh

Interview with Jackie Kay

In this interview, poet Jackie Kay is asked some questions about working as a poet in schools. The questions have been taken away from the answers and put into a box at the end. Liberate the questions and put them with the correct answers!

A Box of Answers

Question 1: _____

I don't think they differ much. I don't like writing for children that is 'writing for children'. If it is any good, then adults will like it too. When I create a voice or a character, I go through the same process whether that voice is a child's or an adult's. When I am writing for children, my own childhood - my past - comes swimming back. I like to keep the conversation open between myself as an adult and myself as a child. When I am creating children's characters, the gap between childhood and adulthood doesn't seem all that large.

Question 2: _____

No, school wasn't. I liked going to Burns Suppers, where I loved the address to the Haggis. I liked the idea that poetry could be very dramatic. I loved going to poetry readings at the Highland Institute in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, to Poetry and PInts nights. More pints than poetry, but a lot of fun.

Question 3: _____

Poetry is language at its most rich. Poetry can surprise and astonish. People turn to poetry often at moments in their lives which are extreme - they might be in love, or recently bereaved. Poetry speaks to people directly at moments like this. Students who understand the music of poetry will also become better at writing prose. The techniques of poetry - metaphor, rhythm, conciseness - can be used in any form of writing, to great effect. When you read poetry you realise that there are many multiple meanings in one single short poem. Poetry provokes discussion and argument. Poetry inhabits ideas better than any other form. Poetry stands the test of time. A true poem is always memorable.

Question 4: _____

I'm currently working at Wingfield Arts in Suffolk. I like this a lot. I have a tiny room overlooking flat fields. I leave my small room and go driving up and down the flooded country lanes to arrive at various country schools. I like the differences between country kids and city kids. I liked working with a group of school children from Radclyffe School, Oldham in Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre. That was exciting because the kids had a chance to really use the theatre and to put on a performance at the end. And I particularly enjoyed running a school's course at the Arvon Foundation at Lumb Bank with pupils from Richmond School and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington. The Arvon courses are excellent for sixth form students. They get to be away from the school environment in a big house with two teachers, two writers and sixteen students. The work they produced was stunning.

Question 5: _____

Anthologies:

101 Short Poems (ed Simon Armitage, Faber)

Emergency Kit (ed Jo Shapcott and Matthew Sweeney)

Time's Tiding (ed Carol Ann Duffy, Anvil)

Poetry with an Edge (ed Neil Astley, Bloodaxe)

I'd also encourage children to compile their own anthologies, or to search through several books to find particular poets. They could do a search for Grace Nichols, or Matthew Sweeney, Valerie Bloom or Kit Wright, Roger McGough or Benjamin Zephaniah in several anthologies. It would be fun finding out which anthologies had poems by Michael Rosen and which didn't.

A Box of Questions

- A Which poetry books do you think should be on every classroom bookshelf?
- B What do you remember about poetry in school when you were a child? Was school the place where you got excited about it?
- C You write extensively for both children and adults. How do the two differ?
- D You've worked on numerous projects in schools, and it must be difficult to pick a favourite. But are there one or two which are particularly memorable?
- E The curriculum is very crowded and demanding these days. What would you say to a teacher who asked: *Why bother with poetry?*