



Young People & Creative Writing

Developing Your Writing

<http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/gokids.htm>

A brilliant resource site run by trAce Online Writing Centre, with information on competitions, how to submit your writing, links to other fantastic sites, resources for teachers, plus book reviews & advice from authors

<http://www.childrens-express.org/>

A UK-wide news agency producing news, features and comment by young people for everyone

<http://teenwriting.about.com>

Find tips, a selection of young authors' works, plus creative writing and homework help

<http://www.kidsonlinemagazine.com>

Again, a good resource site with a mix of advice, information and writing submitted by children

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/listenandwrite/home.htm>

The BBC site that specialises in encouraging poetry and poem writing, with exercises and poetry games

<http://www.thescriptorium.net/>

The Scriptorium E-Zine for Writers features a specific children's section, Scriptorium Scribbles. It is a very good site with an enormous wealth of advice and information for would be writers, including worksheets to get your prose juices flowing, great ideas and suggestions for reading material

<http://www.windowsproject.demon.co.uk/>

The Windows Project has been making poetry fun - helping children to start writing and providing support and advice for poetry writing by and with all ages and abilities since 1976. The website features a workbook, games, an events section and information on how to get a poet to come in to your school

www.youngculturalcreators.com

Young Cultural Creators is a project that opens up young people's reading and inspires their creativity, combining libraries, museums, archives, galleries, and children's writers to bring the project to life. Their handbook, which costs £10 (the website has a more up to date version of it) is available from: Carol Dixon, Development Manager (Learning and Access), ALM London, Cloister Court, 22-26 Farringdon Lane, London, EC1R 3AJ. Tel: 020 7549 1704, Email: Carol.Dixon@alm london.org.uk (please note that until June 2005 they only have a limited supply until a reprint is done)

<http://www.bl.uk/services/learning.html>

Practical resource site by The British Library for creative writers and writers interested in the English Language, it includes: 1000 years of English literature: be inspired to create your own!, language and dialect and word building information

<http://www.zuzu.org/>

Artwork provides a stimulus for creative writing: children can submit their work for possible online publication

<http://www.zemblamagazine.com/>

The adult Literary magazine with a difference is soon to launch 'Little Zembla' magazine for children, all about literature. The magazine can also be contacted for details at Little Zembla, 319 Portobello Road, London, W10 5SY

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<http://www.newbooksmag.com/mBm.html>

myBOOKSmag is a full-colour magazine packed with activities and extracts from books for 3-7 year olds

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/education/youngpo/yplinks.htm>

The Poetry Society's website, this page provides useful links for young poets

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/>

Advice on reading and writing, plus you can listen to live readings of poetry written by William Blake or Shakespeare etc., and you can even download poems as MP3 files for later listening!

<http://www.mystworld.com/youngwriter>

Young Writer is an international creative writing magazine from children aged 5 to 18 from around the world

<http://www.poetryclass.net/>

The Poetry Class website reflects the ethos of taking the fear out of poetry. The site offers plain language, printable poetry workshops, a glossary of terms, interviews with poets, recommended books, and key stage requirements tagged to particular poetry workshops on the site

<http://www.thenewspaper.org.uk/>

The Newspaper is a free national printed newspaper for 8 to 13-year-olds. This accompanying website provides an online version of the paper as well as additional teaching resources

<http://www.gutenberg.org/>

This website publishes out-of-copyright works online for free. You can find the classic books from the start of this century and previous centuries, from authors like Shakespeare, Poe, Dante, as well as well-loved favourites like the Sherlock Holmes stories

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Dictionary.html>

This website provides 1,885 illustrated dictionary entries. Each word is used in a meaningful example sentence and a picture-dictionary format is used to link to sites around the world. There is an English version as well as an English-French, English-German, English-Italian, English-Portuguese, or English-Spanish

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts-literature-activities-young-peoples-literature.htm>

The British Council site which has an amazing array of resources for Young People, including interviews with authors, bibliographies of books, plus links and information about Literature Festivals, events, exhibitions and projects. Highly recommended

<http://www.encompassculture.com/>

enCompassCulture is a worldwide Reading Group, the place to find your next book and talk about books with other readers around the world. It has full details of over 5,000 books for all age ranges and is full of useful features including a selection of suggested reads for 12 – 18 year olds as well as for children. They also have a reader in residence, who is happy to answer your book queries

<http://www.norfolkblurb.co.uk/>

News, reviews, information, advice and support written by and for young people, plus a message board where you can log in to chat, run by Norfolk Youth & Community Services

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/norfolk/blast/>

Blast is a BBC initiative encouraging 13 – 19 year olds throughout the UK to get in to dance, film, art, writing and music. The site features reviews and articles by young people, and gives you a great over-view of the arts in your region. You can also get in touch with Blast to become a reporter for them yourself!

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http://www.aldeburghpoetryfestival.org/html/schools_tour.htm

The Aldeburgh Poetry Trust's page, with information on how to get poets to tour at your school

<http://www.teenage.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Norfolk County Council's special Reading site for teenage readers, it features details of events and promotions in libraries, information on the latest books and a feedback form for books you have enjoyed, plus much more.

Competitions & Awards

There are tons of fantastic writing competitions out there – far too many to even begin to list here in fact. To start you off on your exciting journey however, a good place to start is the following website, which has a huge list of awards from all around the world for young writers, whatever your genre or level of ability:

<http://www.trinity.wa.edu.au/plduffycr/subjects/english/writing/writcomp.htm>

As well as those awards and competitions featured on the above website, you should also look out for **The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award**, for National Poetry Day, organised by The Poetry Society (see: <http://www.poetrysoc.com/youngnat/ynindex.htm> or email: fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk or telephone: 020 7420 989).

Worth checking out also is The Ledbury Poetry Competition (<http://www.poetry-festival.com/> or telephone: 0845 459 1743 for details and a festival brochure); the **Rialto Young Poets Competition** (<http://www.therialto.co.uk>); the **Christopher Tower Prizes for Poetry** (<http://www.towerpoetry.org.uk/>) and the annual **Ottakar's and Faber Poetry Competition** (<http://www.ottakars.co.uk>) which are the big ones, plus also worth a look at is the **Positive Images Competition**: <http://www.positive-images.org.uk> or telephone 771196 / 8 for details.

A tip to remember is that most of these competitions are free, and you should be wary of any award or competition that requires you to pay a fee: always check first with an adult, or get someone to help you research the particular competition or award that you think you'd like to enter: this also helps anyway, as you may find that the piece of writing you wanted to enter isn't the correct type or you are not eligible to enter anyway. It always pays off to spend a little bit of time checking that the particular award or competition is right for you: after all, you don't want to waste precious writing time, do you?!

Creative Arts East's Literature Development Team provide information and advice for practitioners in literature and the arts, as well as opportunities to develop your skills.

Contact **Literature Development Officer, Lisa D'Onofrio**, Creative Arts East, Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1AW.

Or telephone (01603) 774 789

Or email: lisa.donofrio@cae.norfolk.gov.uk

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