

ABOUT US

As part of About Us, a team of poets delivered workshops in primary schools and community groups in each of the show's locations. The workshops explored the many ways life is connected across the universe. Each group of young people we worked with created a collaborative poem exploring topics like cosmology, nature, identity and the climate. These poems were written by schools and community groups in Luton, created with poets Adisa the Verbalizer, Cheryl Moskowitz, John Hegley, Kat Francois and Laura Mucha.

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ABOUT US

Bushmead Primary School
poem created with John Hegley

Yes

A smile says: yes.

A heart says: blood.

When the rain says drink,

The earth says mud.

The butterfly says: burp.

The bat says: tongue.

When the slow worm says wiggle,

The badger says yum.

A bush says: shoosh.

A mead says: grow.

When the tree says thrive,

The grass says low.

Slowly.

ABOUT US

Bushmead Primary School
poem created with John Hegley

Merveille du Jour

Lying to you, we are; we are not what we seem.

Even though I am a leaf, I am not.

After crawling through the forest, I blend in with my surroundings.

Flying from tree to tree, stopping when someone can see me.

ABOUT US

CHUMS

poem created with Cheryl Moskowitz

About Us

We make paper butterflies to flutter away into the night sky
we dream they reach the arms of the universe.

In big colourful letters we write our names
and hope that someone special and imaginary will discover us,
Cherished, Confident Lion, Benevolent Cupid, Heavenly Queen,
Enlightened One, Truth Teller, Warrior Woman, High-Born, Grace

We spread our own powerful wings and fly high
we are sisters and brothers of the sky

We carry gifts, things that connect us to home
a class photo, my brother's ring,
roses from my Luton garden,
the golden Cloddagh Stone
from my beloved Emerald Isle.

The memory of my Grandad, Pat.

ABOUT US

Revoluton Arts

poem created with Cheryl Moskowitz

Definitions of Connection

(after mer-cy by Alison C Rollins)

connection (/kəˈnɛkj(ə)n/) *noun*.

1a. A potent, unbreakable bond experienced//felt; **b.** *'it stayed with him forever'*; **c.** a closely knit family; **d.** a sense of community. **2a.** All of us in the same house; **b.** as in, *raindrops falling into the same pool of water*; **c.** different leaves, same tree; **d.** like cells in the same body **e.** like the letters in a word. **3a.** The fundamental link between all living beings; **b.** e.g. the producers who give and the predators who take; **c.** as in, *'the recognition of our bond when my cat misses me from home*; **d.** as in, *'knowing what my sister is about to say, before she gets a chance to say it.'* **4a.** Sunlight shining through struggle; **b.** as in, *that you brought a cool drink in a glass bottle to a lady doing chores on a hot day*; **c.** e.g. that moment when we caught each other laughing at the same thing; **d.** fingers set in motion; that you brushed my hair with that hard brush – pulling straight the untamed curls of my hair; **5a.** The linking or holding together of people or things; **b.** The uniforms they were wearing instantly *connected* the children. **c.** *'You and me darling, we have a special connection'*; **d.** she was wearing a necklace of intricately *connected* beads **e.** a many petalled flower.

ABOUT US

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
poem created with John Hegley

I Need You

I need you like an ant needs strength.

I need you like a bat needs Halloween.

I need you like a cactus needs the desert.

I need you like a dandelion needs delion.

I need you like an ear needs an earring.

I need you like a family needs each other.

I need you like measles need medicine.

I need you like hair needs shampoo.

I need you like an insectivorous plant needs bugs.

I need you like Japanese seaweed needs Japan.

I need you like a kneecap needs legs.

I need you like a black-backed gull needs fish.

I need you like the mammals need meat.

I need you like a squirrel needs nuts.

I need you like an octopus needs four pairs of socks.

ABOUT US

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
poem created with Laura Mucha

Because We Can

We are like cats doing doggy paddles,
dogs playing with their toys,
horses chasing humans for their food,
bears scratching their backs against barks
and d n l g
a c n
because we like to jam,
because we're happy,
because we can.

We are also like a giant water lily,
an ominous dominant monster,
we pierce with thorns,
wield our clubs
grow and go to endless extents
to crush, impale, push aside
because we don't give a d*mn,
because we're greedy,
because we can.

ABOUT US

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
poem created with Laura Mucha

I Am

I am funky as a fox
and as dull as dust
I'm as calm as the trees
and as lively as a gust
I'm as warm as the sand
and as icy as wind
I'm as gentle as grass
and as harsh as a sting
I'm as tangled as a bush
and as free as a bee
I'm as clear as glass
and people see through me
I'm as small as a tick
and as big as a why
I'm all of these things at once...
I'm as capable as the sky.

ABOUT US

Tennyson Road Primary School
poem created with Adisa the Verbalizer

Nature's Poem

The colossal emerald grass pointing to the sky like spears,
Out to the shining sky like warriors pointing with spears.
While the monument is a rocket ready to fly to space,
As the pole shines with boldness across the sky,
The bench is a rocking horse in the wind.
The stiff black concrete lays still as ice,
While the naked trees dance like ballerinas in a show.
The monument stands still, pointing to the sky like javelins,
While the swing swings into doom like an anaconda.
The seesaw is as sharp as a mountain,
While the slide unleashes its tongue to Earth.
The grass dances like ballerinas
And the tyre spins like a headache
And boom, there goes my imagination!

ABOUT US

Tennyson Road Primary School
poem created with Adisa the Verbalizer

The Park

As I play in the climbing frame that looked like a snake
While the tree is as thick as five sandwiches on top of a stake,
The trees all have spiky branches, as the cold wind sways the trees calmly.
The slide that looks like a slippery snake looks at the wet, sticky spider web
As it moves up and down
While children cheerfully laugh.
The roundabout is like in space,
When the planets go around at the same pace.
The lamppost is as big as a tree,
Standing high on top with lots of glee.
There was a brown tree that was a bony hand.
The bony fingers were a super rocket ship that can take you anywhere:
To candy and to Mars,
To the world of gaming,
Even the world where dreams come true.
The park is the best.
I also want you to confess
That this park is the best.

ABOUT US

Tennyson Road Primary School
poem created with Adisa the Verbalizer

Joy and Miserable Life

The slithering slide is a red snake,
As the swinging spider web flies up and down in the clouds.
The tree of life stands tall and proud,
As it looks like it's getting an award.
As it looks like it's getting closer to eat your soul.

The children shout loudly in joy,
As the grand, miserable parents stare at the statue of a missile.
Nothing more than a small tour
At the home of the tree's faith.
This is a power cane that spins super fast.

The joyful kids play and slip and slide,
While the parents join in with a wild smile.
The monument is a volcano that all look at
In fear and memory.

The wind whooshing
The trees flowing
What happens next?

The destructive lightning,
The buildings destroyed.
Stop.
Just stop.

The narrator stops. Everything is destroyed.
The tree stood as a magical lizard,
Adding strength to all.

ABOUT US

Tennyson Road Primary School
poem created with Adisa the Verbalizer

The Park

The climbing bars are a huge snake
In the cold hard desert in the middle of nowhere.
The bench is as old as 1910
And the statue is a colossal concrete mountain.
The birds sing their own magical melody.
The naked trees unfold their mighty, glorious hands,
While others stand as firm as knights.
The grass is stiffer than the cold, hard, ancient stone,
While the sacred swing is flinging people to heaven.
With the help of the wind, the grass dances like ballerinas.
All this splendour envelops the world,
Making it more beautiful.

This what we call spring.

ABOUT US

Tennyson Road Primary School
poem created with John Hegley

Leaves

Envy

Apples

For now.

Ivy leaves, generously imparting the world with oxygen.

Fragile

Elegant

Utterly amazing

Impeccable-

Looking

Leaf

Evolves

Living

Insects

Secretly

Crawling

Zigzagging on the lime leaf

Tall, relative-eating evergreen.

ABOUT US

University of Bedfordshire Saturday Club

poem created with Kat Francois

Connection

Life is the memories locked away in a box,
like a moment trapped in a loop
Crossing out words engraved in ink
no time to pause, no time to think

Personal and creative in its own ways
life is the linking of two hands
the serene drawings of a quiet morning
hoping for a better day, a better story

Life is like the ocean
most of it is unexpected
It can be abused and hated
or it can be loved and wasted

Life is like the momentous cities
The place for repetitive routines
It is the dull cauldron for creation
Life is like plain paper before creation.

Life for us is socializing through games
life without nature is like a tree with no leaves
life without nature is like a pen with no ink
life for us is about being free
letting go of corrupted emotions
accomplishing goals
is when you obtain real happiness.

Family the one heart no one can break,
simple satisfaction taken for granted

ABOUT US

singing songs to express our desire to live
we are the light, we shall find as long as we keep breathing
we are the sweets that make us pucker
we are the music we play when sad,
we are the moon and all it represents.