

Poetry takes Flight

The power of poetry lies in its ability to transport us to different places, times and experiences.

~ Katie Persse, Teacher, St Mary's Anglican Girls' School.

FROM SOCK puppets to gnomes, snow globes and stones – our treasured objects open portals into inner worlds, memories of travel and poetic inspiration.

Special objects and the precious memories they hold are at the heart of *Red Room Poetry Object*; a competition that helps students and teachers create and share poems inspired by objects.

Now in its sixth year, the competition has published more than 15,000 student poems from a constellation of 250 schools across Australia and New Zealand. Many of these budding poets come from Rex destinations such as Cooma, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Parkes, Perth and Whyalla, where exceptional imagination is unlocked through personal poetry.

In Toowoomba, Year 5 student Bede shares the tale of his grandfather's trumpet – "A musical machine... It's the only thing I have left of him." For his classmate Hugh, a silver toy plane becomes the "key to the world, the king of the air". And students at St Mary's Anglican Girls School in Perth created a group poem by painting verses onto canvas shoes that will be donated to charity.

As their teacher Katie Persse explains, "Through poetry we are able to put on a new pair of shoes and take a walk through an unfamiliar or alternate perspective. The power of poetry lies in its

ability to transport us to different places, times and experiences."

Families and friends also gain insight into the significance of special objects from different people, cultures and places, celebrating poetic achievements at community performances all over the country.

2016 winning *Red Room Poetry Object* poems will be announced in the next issue of *Outthere* magazine, with a prize pool of over \$10,000 supported by the Graeme Wood Foundation, Copyright Agency, Australia Council for the Arts, generous individuals and Regional Express (Rex).



'Poetic soles' by St Mary's students.



Katie with her magic gnome.

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ACTIVITY

What would your Poetry Object be and why? Using all of your senses, write a poem about your object in as much detail as possible.

Send your poem to education@redroomcompany.org



FIND OUT MORE

The Red Room Company's vision is to make poetry a meaningful part of everyday life. We create poetic arts projects and learning programs in collaboration with a spectrum of poets, schools, communities and partners for positive social impact. Our mission is to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities. redroomcompany.org