



Contact Toni Murphy
Telephone 02 9319 5090
Email education@redroomcompany.org
Website www.redroomcompany.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2015

RED ROOM POETRY OBJECT 2015: COMPETITION NOW OPEN

Poetry Competition for Students and Teachers in Australia and New Zealand

Sydney, NSW, April 29, 2015– The Red Room Company is proud to announce the launch of the *Red Room Poetry Object 2015*.

Red Room Poetry Object is a wonderful way for teachers to engage students in poetry writing. Our special objects hold the power to transform our experiences and inspire our imaginations and each year Poetry Object inspires incredibly imaginative and moving poetry from students and teachers of all ages. We eagerly await this year's submissions! – Toni Murphy, Education Manager.

Red Room Poetry Object is a free poetry-writing competition for students and teachers in Years 3-10. Created in 2011, the project invites young writers and their teachers to submit poems inspired by objects that are special to them.

In 2014, The Red Room Company received 2552 entries from over 130 schools across Australia and New Zealand. This year, we hope to publish even more inspired student and teacher poetry from across the country.

"We have really loved the experience! From the kids who love reading and saw this as a natural extension to those who never-in-a-million-years wanted to do poetry (but now see it as doable and cool!) it was a great experience." - Grant Williams, Albuera Street Primary School, TAS

Competition closes on 18th September, 2015. Schools can register for the competition via The Red Room Company's website, and access free Poetry Object Resources designed to make poetry fun and accessible for young learners. Registered schools can then upload their students work; all submitted poems are published on The Red Room Company's website.

Certificates of Achievement are awarded to all participants. 2015 Poetry Object Judge, celebrated poet and author Lisa Gorton, will award prizes for Best Student Poem (Primary), Best Student Poem (Secondary), Best Teacher Poem, and Best School Installation.

Judge Lisa Gorton is a poet, essayist, and fiction writer. She completed a doctorate on John Donne at Oxford University and her awards include the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize, the Victorian Premier's Prize for Poetry and the Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal. Her most recent publications, *Hotel Hyperion* (poetry collection), *The Life of Houses* (novel) and *Cloudland* (children's novel).

The Red Room Company is a not-for-profit organisation that creates unusual and useful poetry projects to transform expectations of, and experiences with, poetry. We aspire to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.

This competition is an integral part of The Red Room Company's Poetry Education Program, which sends contemporary Australian poets into schools to encourage students and teachers to create, perform, and publish poetry, while supporting and curriculum outcomes.

###

If you would like more information, please contact Toni Murphy at 02 9319 5090 or email at education@redroomcompany.org. Information can also be found at <http://redroomcompany.org/projects/poetry-object/>