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THE POETRY OF OBJECTS

WINNERS OF NATIONAL STUDENT POETRY COMPETITION ANNOUNCED!

... and see worlds strung together like silk
the world you're in fades away
and a new one appears

~ excerpt from "Book" by April, Year 3

EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER – The Red Room Company announces the winning and highly commended student and teacher poets of the national *Red Room Poetry Object* competition!

"I was amazed and delighted by the high standard of the poetry in this competition. Some poems were funny, some heartfelt or dramatic; some were like speech and some were like a song; but every poem had something brilliant and original in it." ~ Lisa Gorton, 2015 Poetry Object judge

Red Room Poetry Object is a free poetry writing competition for Australian and New Zealand students 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 2015, 160 schools from every Australian state and territory as well as New Zealand participated in the competition with over 2560 poems submitted and published online.

“We feel enormously privileged to have read so wide a range of students work displaying such deep thinking, extraordinary attention and the courage to sculpt language in unusual and heartfelt ways. We are thrilled that many schools have held or are planning exhibitions and poetry slams to showcase their Poetry Object poems and poets.” ~ Toni Murphy, Education Manager

The 2015 Red Room Poetry Object winners are:

BEST PRIMARY SCHOOL POEM: [The Grasslands](#) by Christopher Edwards, Yr 6, Durack School, NT

BEST SECONDARY SCHOOL POEM: [Under The Covers](#) by Jack Hughes, Yr 7, Caroline Chisholm School, ACT

BEST TEACHER POEM: [Runaway](#) by Annalise Pippard, Teacher, Caroline Chisholm School, ACT

BEST SCHOOL INSTALLATION: [Albuera Street Primary School](#), TAS

Highly Commended prizes have also been awarded to students and teachers from across Australia and New Zealand. View all the winning and commended poems at redroomcompany.org.

Winning poets will receive poetry prize packs including prizes from The Red Room Company, Penguin, Allen & Unwin, BIG kids magazine, and Corban & Blair. A selection of poems will also be exhibited in early 2016 at Big Fat Smile Gallery in NSW.

Red Room Poetry Object 2015 is an integral part of The Red Room Company’s Poetry Education Program, along with workshops which send contemporary Australian poets into schools to encourage students and teachers to create, perform, and publish poetry, aligned with Australian Curriculum outcomes.

Lisa Gorton writes poetry, essays and fiction. She completed a doctorate on John Donne at Oxford University. Lisa’s awards include the Vincent Buckley Poetry Prize, Victorian Premier’s Prize for Poetry and Philip Hodgins Memorial Medal. Her recent publications are *Hotel Hyperion* and *The Life of Houses* (Giramondo).

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.

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For more information, please contact Kristy Wan at 02 9319 5090 or media@redroomcompany.org. Information can also be found at: redroomcompany.org/projects/poetry-object/

THE GRASSLANDS

Striped like the dark of night.
Striped like the colour of the blaze,
bright as day.
He is the savanna hunter,
lurking in the grass.
Learning the ways of the hunt,
the prey unaware.
Sleeping soundly,
protecting its young.
Teaching the young,
My tiger, of the grasslands

**CHRISTOPHER
EDWARDS**
YEAR 6, DURACK
SCHOOL, NT

UNDER THE COVERS

My bed takes me through the wonderlands
like a bullet train on a busy night. It disconnects me
from the world. What feels like 30 seconds
is actually 12 hours. Where I am
I know. Where I was
is a mystery. So I drive on,
drive on for tomorrow and wake up
at the beginning of it all.

JACK HUGHES
YEAR 7, CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
SCHOOL, ACT



RUNAWAY

Janis Joplin cries a smoky goodbye
and I turn towards South Head
a wannabe neo-feminist montage
with fast car and wild hair
the red-lit city and the ocean's
deep maternal belly my new frontier.
I bought the necklace myself
a simulacrum for all girls who get out
before they lose their mind.
Years later I wear it and I'm back
on the road with nothing left to lose.

**ANNALISE
PIPPARD**
TEACHER,
CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
SCHOOL, ACT

