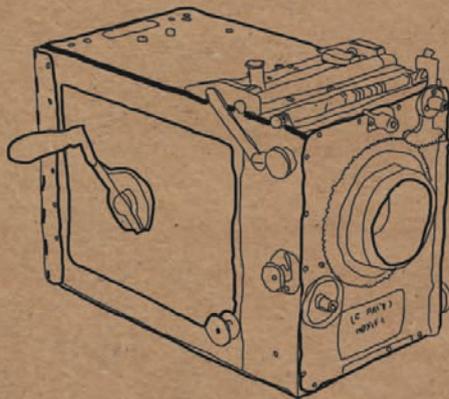


Red
Room
Poetry

Poetry in
Meaningful Ways



POETRY OBJECT

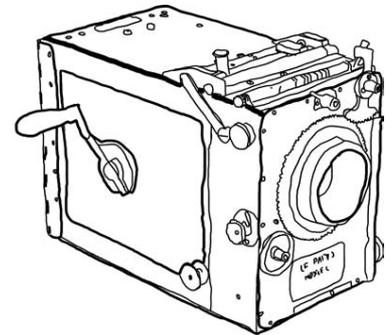
2017

WHO IS RED ROOM POETRY?

Red Room Poetry is a not-for-profit arts organisation whose vision is to make poetry a meaningful part of everyday life. Our poetic arts projects and learning programs have provided creative opportunities for more than 700 poets and over 15,000 students across Australia and beyond our shores.

Red Room Poetic Learning unlocks the door to meaningful engagements with poetry. It brings contemporary poets to classrooms around Australia and enlivens traditional teaching practices.

Find out more at redroomcompany.org



WHAT IS POETRY OBJECT?

Red Room Poetry Object is a poetry writing competition invites students and teachers from across Australia and New Zealand to submit poems about special, curious objects.

The competition is open to students in Years 3-10.

Find out more at redroomcompany.org



WHAT IS A CURIOUS OBJECT?

1. Curious objects are intriguing items that invite a variety of questions. *Could this object be from another world? How was this object made? If this object could speak, what kind of language would it use?*
2. A curious object can also be one that seems ordinary to the rest of the world, but is of infinite interest to you. It is an object with its own inner worlds of *memories* and *imagination*s.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

GUIDE TO CURIOUS OBJECTS



FRANK HURLEY'S CAMERA

Visit the [NMA website](http://www.nma.gov.au) to learn more about this curious object

QUESTIONS

- What evidence of adventure can you see on the camera?
- Look closely at the camera. How does it work?
- Why is it important to record history? How do you record your history?

POETRY WRITING PROMPT

- Experience the world through your object's eyes. What does it see and cherish every day?

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

GUIDE TO CURIOUS OBJECTS



DAN TRE

Visit the [NMA website](http://www.nma.gov.au) to learn more about this curious object

QUESTIONS

- What is this object made from? Why do you think Nguyen used these materials?
- Look closely at the *dàn tre*. How do you think this musical instrument is played?
- Choose three objects around you. What music or sounds can you make using these?

POETRY WRITING PROMPT

- Write a poem about the ways your object connects you to special places and people in your life.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

GUIDE TO CURIOUS OBJECTS



GHOSTNET BUTTERFLY FISH

Visit the [NMA website](http://www.nma.gov.au) to learn more about this curious object

QUESTIONS

- How do you think the artist made this sculpture?
- Look closely at the Butterfly Fish. What part do you think would be the trickiest to make?
- What artworks can you create using objects recycled from your local environment?

POETRY WRITING PROMPT

- Write a poem about the ways you preserve and care for your object.

MESHREFET

I watched my grandmother weave
She'd sit on the concrete
Her henna covered soles
Pressing down on the plaited lakha reeds
Smooth beneath her foot

I would try to keep up
She would whisper, in my mother tongue
ghes beli - don't rush
Then share with me wisdom from our history
She, illiterate
Only had her memories
And what her own hands could conceive

Read Manal Younus' full poem [here](http://redroomcompany.org/poem/manal-younus/meshrefet/):

<http://redroomcompany.org/poem/manal-younus/meshrefet/>



Think about three important memories that you have with your object. “Braid” these together in a poem that tells these stories.

SUBSUMED; JUNE CELEBRATION

After Peter Upward
out here being
 speaks of making
now as afterward
 or at least another

 across a landscape
defined by absence
not defined, but
 within possibility

casually subsumed
codetta: I say *looks like*
we started something
we couldn't finish



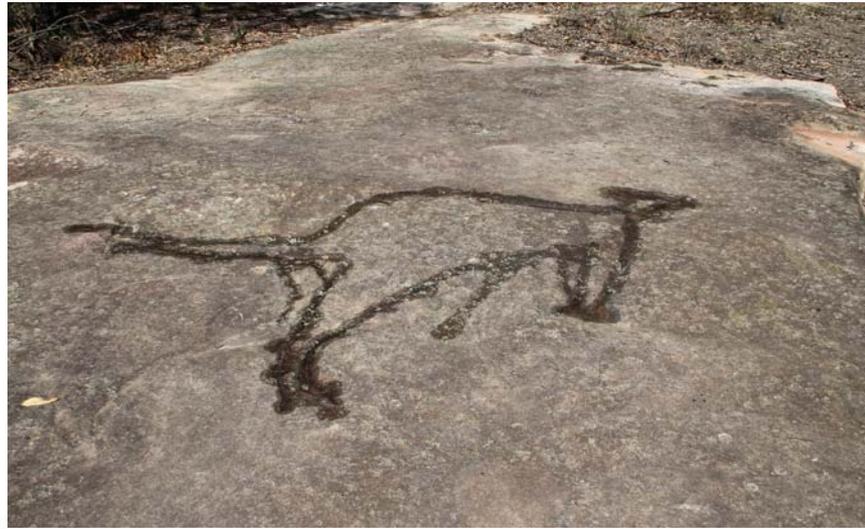
Block-Out Poem: Write a micro-story about your object. When you finish, choose words and phrases that you want to stand out from the rest of the text. With a marker, cross out the lines that surround your chosen words and phrases.

Read Jeremy Balius' full poem [here](http://redroomcompany.org/poem/jeremy-balius/subsumed-june-celebration/):
<http://redroomcompany.org/poem/jeremy-balius/subsumed-june-celebration/>

K1: YELLOMUNDEE

Beyond your stage
the audience murmur
men and women weep
and silk their skin bare,
for here and gone and taken.
Held by mostly mountains
now
you wear crowns
of returning eucalypt:
I can't see your lashes
but feel them still soft
like that skin they try to skin
to wear you with words
and all them names they
reason
and rub out.

Read Evelyn Araluen Corr's full poem
[here](http://redroomcompany.org/poem/Evelyn-Araluen/k1-yellomundee/): [http://redroomcompany.org/poem/
Evelyn-Araluen/k1-yellomundee/](http://redroomcompany.org/poem/Evelyn-Araluen/k1-yellomundee/)



Write a poem about how your object was made. Was it carved into the ground? Was it assembled by hand? What does its design tell you about the creator of the object?

EXAMPLES OF POETRY OBJECTS



GROUP TALISMANIC POEM

1. Get into groups of 3-5 students. Each group can choose their own object to write about.
2. Investigate the curiosities of your object. What is most unique about it?
3. Each student will use poetic language to write 1 line in response to their object.
4. When everyone has finished writing, arrange the lines in the best order and read it out loud.



EXAMPLES OF *POETRY OBJECT* POEMS

Crocodile Tooth Necklace

Inside the tooth necklace is the cavity.
Inside the cavity is the fish bone.
Inside the fish bone there is the mite.
Inside the mite there's the plankton.
Inside the plankton there's the salt.
Inside the salt there's a chemical.
Inside the chemical there's the chop of the disease
Inside the disease there's the cure.
Inside the cure there's the hope.
Inside the hope there's a smile.
Inside the smile there's the child.
Inside the child there's a tooth.
Inside the tooth there's a cavity.

By Niamh

**Year 6, Our Lady of Mt Carmel, 2016
Winning Poem (Primary)**



EXAMPLES OF POETRY OBJECT POEMS

Hei Matau

Maui pulls on the rope from the waka
Up comes the biggest ika ever, hanging on the
hei matau
The North Island
Te Ika a Maui
The fish of Maui

Lying in the depths of the moana
The kaitieki of Aoteroa search
Ika, Fish
The spirit and hopes of the Maori inside
a single hook

By David

Year 9, Christ Church Grammar School, 2016

Highly Commended Poem (Secondary)

Read the full poem [here](#):

<http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/9324/>



EXAMPLES OF POETRY OBJECT POEMS

(Faux) Tortoise Shell Knitting Needles

once tapped a faint heartbeat,
a winter evening pulse,
birthing love garments.

I glimpse my mother's midwife hands,
their milky outline ghosted
over needles of toffee two-tone gloss,
one thick finger flicking wool,
narrow rods kissing. Clicking
as bright yarn dribbles
across her pillowed lap, illuminated
in a spill of yellow lamplight,
now and then her mouth whisper-counting
lines and lines and lines and lines.

Deborah Ritchie, Teacher, Bowral Public School
Highly Commended Poem (Teacher)

Read the full poem [here](#):

<http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/8529/>



YOU AND YOUR SPECIAL OBJECT

- Before you bring your special object to school, tell the people at home where you are taking it and why.
Ask permission.
- If your object is precious, it might be better to bring a photograph of your object to school.
- Think about how to keep your object safe at school. Perhaps leave it in your locker or with your teacher.



POEM WRITING

Your task is to compose a poem about your curious object.

You should write **no more than 20 lines**.

Your talismanic object poem should

1) Explore the inner worlds of your objects. *Does your object dream? Does it sing? Does it speak? What does it say? What does it remember?*

AND

2) Explain to the reader why you value your special object

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE!

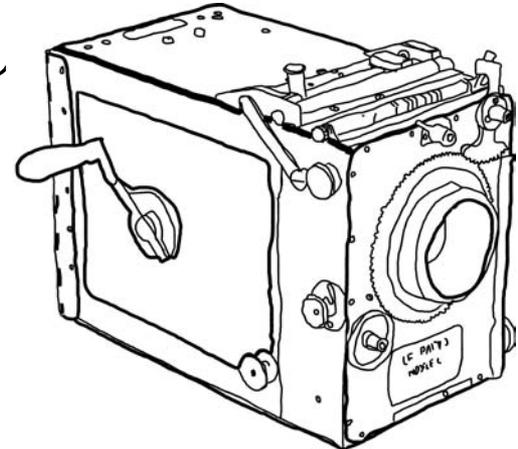
Before you begin writing your poem, dive into these pre-writing prompts for inspiration!



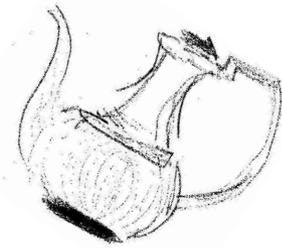
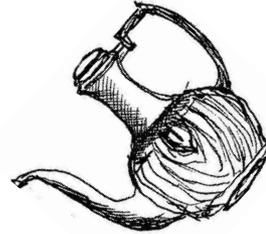
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR OBJECT

Place your object in front of you on your desk.

- Close your eyes and hold the object in your hands. Slowly feel its nooks, crannies and curves.
- With your eyes closed, imagine the adventures your object embarks on when you're not watching.
- Now, using these sensory descriptions, create similes for your object using each of your senses
(i.e. My dream-catcher tastes like fairy floss,
My object smells like . . .
It sounds like . . .
It is looks like . . .
It feels like . . .
My object tastes like. . .



DRAWING ACTIVITY



Draw your object on the same page in as many different ways as you can.

- Eyes closed
- Fast
- Unstopping line
- Use different materials

How does this affect the appearance of the object? Does it look like a completely new object?

Bonus Activity

Switch papers with a partner and ask them to draw your object. What did they draw differently?

HOW DO I SUBMIT MY POEM?



- Ask your teacher for the submission link or for help in uploading your poem.
- All submissions will be made electronically [here](http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/submit/): <http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/submit/>
- **Final date for submission: No later than 5:00 pm on Friday 22nd September 2017.**

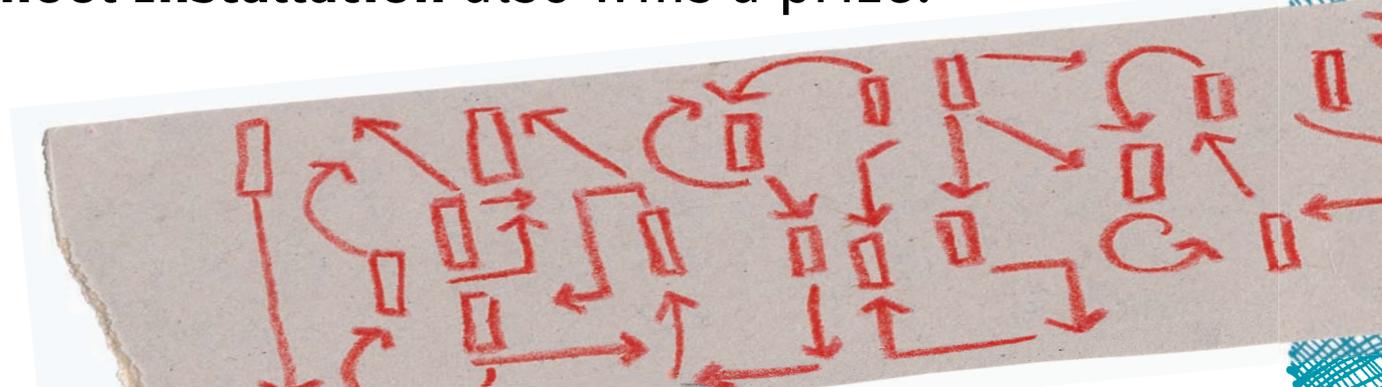
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- All poems submitted to *Poetry Object* will be published in our [Poetry Object Library](http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/): <http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/>
- Shortlisted poems will be judged by celebrated poet [Mark Tredinnick](http://redroomcompany.org/poet/mark-tredinnick/): <http://redroomcompany.org/poet/mark-tredinnick/>
- *Red Room Poetry* will announce the winning and highly commended poets in November 2017.

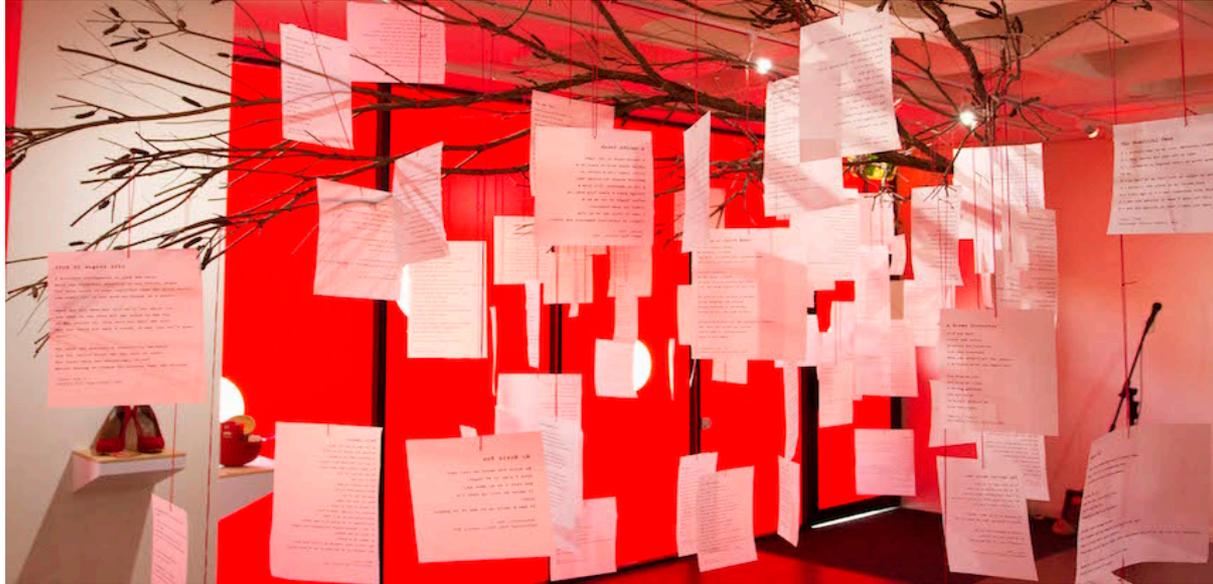


GROUP ACTIVITY

- Teachers and students are encouraged to create school and class poem installations.
- Schools should submit a digital photograph of this group installation and a written explanation of their approach to the installation. The written explanation should be no more than 250 words in length.
- The **Best School Installation** also wins a prize.



WHAT IS AN INSTALLATION?



- An installation is an artwork designed for a specific site.
- In this case, an installation is your school's approach to displaying your poems, photographs and/or objects for *Red Room Poetry Object*.
- **Explore more examples of School Installations [here](http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/?search=installation):**
<http://redroomcompany.org/poetry-object/poems/?search=installation>

ACHIEVEMENTS

- All participating students will each receive a **certificate of achievement**.
- All submitted poems will be featured in our *Poetry Object* library, to a worldwide audience of over 240, 000 readers. Winning poems will be published in highly visible public platforms.
- Prizes for Winning Student Poem (Primary and Secondary), Winning Teacher Poem and 'Best School Installation' will be announced in November 2017. For more information on prizes, [click here](http://redroomcompany.org/projects/poetry-object-prizes/): <http://redroomcompany.org/projects/poetry-object-prizes/>



THANK YOU!

- Thank you for participating in *Red Room Poetry Object*. We look forward to reading and publishing your poems!
- If you have any questions about the project, please contact Red Room Producer of Poetic Learning, Eunice Andrada.

t: (02) 9319 5090

e: eunice@redroomcompany.org

w: <http://redroomcompany.org/projects/poetry-object>

