



Cherrybrook Technology High School, NSW, 2016 Poetry Workshop, with Candy Royalle

As part of Cherrybrook Technology High School's Literary Festival, performer and poet, Candy Royalle lead a series of in-depth poetic workshops with 270 students from year 7. Drawing on her own unique brand of performance and poetry writing, these workshops infused different forms of storytelling, activism and personal anecdotes.

Red Room Poetry Education inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry. We enliven experiences with poetry by bringing contemporary poets into classrooms across Australia to run intensive writing workshops that awaken imaginations, support creative opportunities and curriculum outcomes.

The Red Room Company at Cherrybrook Technology High School, NSW, 2016

redroomcompany.org/education/



My Wardrobe

My wardrobe, no colour, no soul, just black
My wardrobe, no beauty, no light, just darkness
My wardrobe, a mess, a challenging test to clean,
day and night my clothes just sit

My wardrobe, a mumma birds nest
My wardrobe, dirty reflection from the mirror
that lies before, fingerprints oil and so much
more.

My wardrobe, my cave, the money that I gave.
My wardrobe, black, white, the colour is disappearing
My wardrobe, ratchet rocket flown around
My wardrobe, the heart of my clothes and money
spent.

My wardrobe, no colour, no soul, just black
My wardrobe, no beauty, no light, just darkness.

- Chloe

Untitled

Constantly vanishing every night like sunlight.
Constant breeding not going to get this done.
Coming towards us starvation, dehydration.
Continues. Death is inevitable.
Continuously slatering wild animals. Counts as no
crime in most of the world.
Columbia, Chili, just a few examples of this.

- Owen

Basketball

Swish! The sound when
the ball graciously goes
through the hoop only touching
the net. Basketball is
the love of my life.

Sweat, blood, tears is the
mixture on your head
with dust, dirt and hard work.
Put up the shot and watch
it soar through the sky
and dive bomb into the net.

Up goes the 3pt shot
on the scoreboard
Sometimes you have to take the shot
Even if you've been told to not.
But in this case it's the plot
The same form everything like a robot.

Bang! You get the foul.
Hit in the face with the ball
Two shots one to follow.
The buzzer goes, down by one
A minute later the team is
cheering, too bad it's the
other team cheering.

- Bradley

Untitled

They once filled the oceans. Jumping
and splashing having so much fun. Oh Joy
soon ended for the lives soon finished
with ocean creatures slowly decreasing. Slow
and slow, less and less they slowly started to
disappear. They who once filled the sea are
now going away. Where have all the
creatures gone? Why have they gone
and run away...As I call out to get
them to come. Get back! Get back! You
cannot be found? I just wish you all
came back now! I am lost at sea with
no animals to come and guide me. Good
or bad I do not care but what I care is
Where you've gone .come back and play
with me and guide me back to land, but
you do not come and I will sink
forgotten forever.

- Emily

Life

Life cries in despair,
as memories and happiness fade
stories life, not telling the truth
as humanity disappears.

A child so young
born into despair
innocence replaced by
corruption.
When the buildings crumble,
so does peace.
When the bombs come,
so does crying.
When the history fades,
so does reality.
When nature dies,
so does emotions.

When the screaming starts,
and the bombs blow,
life cries in despair.
As memories and happiness fade
stories lied, not telling the truth,
as humanity disappears.

- Joshua

Untitled

Green trees turning brown, life fading, trust, humanity and freedom. These things are disappearing. Pssshhhh, what's that? The sound of wind running through your hair and the familiar smell of the dish you love. Love is disappearing, relationships crumbling apart, being torn bone by bone before your very eyes. Look around you and see, for the world you know is vanishing, burning bit by bit, piece by piece. The people you love are dying. Creativity, imagination, honesty, belief, respect and above all time. As you read and as you listen. Thoughts are going through your mind and simply disappearing. Time slips through our fragile mind, weaving memories of some kind with it's cold and hard hands for time runs out. When will your hourglass run out? The minuscule grains of sand are falling, unhurried, underestimated and uncared about. Look around you, what do you notice now? Hopes, dreams, trust, honesty, and even money disappearing.

- Arikhta

Disappearing Imagination

It's gone, the creativity, the thoughts, the fun
It's vanished away
Don't know where, but it's gone so quickly.
The thoughts all used to pop out like a waterfall
and now, now
they have all turned into silence
Ideas flowing through my head
rushing out ready to be written
But now, now
they have all turned into silence

The clouds have all invaded my brain
My thoughts have all vanished
They can't come out anymore
It's impossible
Because
now, now
they have all turned into silence.

- Alisha

Bones

They were shattered across the barren land.
All hell broke loose, people, cars, trucks,
everything.
The only thing that you could hear
was gun shots, BOOM as the huge
tank went off.
Searching for bodies across the war torn land
I scattered to the safest landing spot as
my father chased behind me. Scurrying
through all the blood and bones.
My brother Chase was lost.
NO where to be found. What was on
my mind. I'll tell you what was on
my mind. I thought he was....
was....DEAD, my only brother
in a puddle of his own
blood Lights go out, what next-

- Milena

Time

Time. Disappearing slowly.
Slipping away. Innocent
yet deadly.

Dark, doomy, destructible.
Slithers, slides through out
fingers. Running like water.
Yet not smooth, slashing.

Limits. I have limits.
Time eats me. Predator on
prey. Time is a machine.
Ruining lives.

Bringing darkness to me.
A storm cloud above. A
Thunderstorm approaching.
A wave about the crash. A wave
about to destroy.
It runs away. Like a
cheetah. I chase,
chase chase. Yet
Time is too fast. Too
quick. I cannot keep
up. I am too
slow.

Time is ticking. Through
my brain. It leaps
around carelessly whilst
I am on the floor.
Struggling. Reaching to
pull it back.

So I can replay my
happiness. To a time when
life was good. To a
time where opinions
didn't matter. But time
is too quick. Too fast
for me and my memories.

If only time could walk
slower, so I could
become predator, not
prey. So I can attack.
Not be attacked. By
time.

- Emalee

It Takes Courage

All you need is that one thing to pull you up.
All you need is courage.
To take that step
that leap
You try you fail. Get back up fail.
Although you know you will reach it
succeed, win, you will get there
The respect you will gain the pride you will have the confidence.
It takes courage.

If you had one chance would you
take it or would you let it go
It takes courage.

It may come again, opportunities here there
then when it's you it's gone.
Don't miss that chance, that opportunity
it takes courage, hope, confidence, faith, respect
in yourself.
It takes courage.

You miss
it's like a shot to the leg
You try to get back up
You can't

It takes courage.

- Christopher

Freedom

The lack of Freedom the sound of Darkness
the pressure beneath us but rising every
Single day. H/W is known like our everyday
Routine can't avoid since I was moved I was handled
like a piece of leaf flying side to side
waiting for the wind to stop. Only thing I want
to do is taste the light of Freedom wrapped
Around me not letting me go not giving up.
I still keep dreaming the age that
I am still supposed to be running
around being healthy. All my life sitting down
being overweight, getting bullied for who I
am wanting to leave my life but
fear wont leave me. Pray wont believe
friends wont believe no real people that
knows my real identity. If prayer won't
listen who will. The lack of confidence.

- Daniel

Untitled

Respect was a stream of water,
it flowed freely, it was cherished,
but time has passed unmercifully,
and respect has all but perished.

Like a tap of dirty water,
it was poured out, down the drain.
But unlike dirty water
it will not be used again.

Precious few have tried to save it,
to preserve it, let it live
yet these precious few are shunned,
and are left with nought to give.

But if we act, and bring it back,
The water will stream once more,
If respect is present we help each other
find what's worth fighting for.

- Rachel

Untitled

Imagination, creativity.
Watch it shrink and wither up
disappearing into thin air.
Order takes its place, grinning with triumph
Imagination, shot down, crying as its rejected.
Difference rewarded with punishment
human civilisation, all the same
no emotions evoked
Just a gloomy hole of emptiness.
Love, friendship, blown away like leaves in the wind.
Life regarded as nothing, a cruel punishment that
doesn't end until your last breath is drawn
Happiness becomes history, a memory that's on the
brink
of extinction
Imagination, creativity, gone for good
Order is what's left, a burden for those who
survive
Imagination, creativity, watch it shrink and wither up.

- Alyce

Disappearing – Motivation, Determination

The homework is piling on.
The chores are piling on.
They are sitting, waiting, motionless.
Why can't I sit motionless?
My laziness is taking over.
My parents are exploding like supernovas.
My body won't move.
My brain won't think.
I don't want to but I have to.
There will be consequences,
But I'm losing my senses.
Where is my motivation?
Where is my determination?
Maybe I should just do it,
and avoid all this stress.
But I can't, I won't
So I don't.

- Sonia

Childhood

What we once had is not here anymore
as we begin to grow old but what for?

Memories slipping from our grasp
Our minds bursting

The truth becomes clearer
The days become longer

We are afraid to speak our mind
afraid of being judged.

We learn that there is not happiness in everything
and promises are hard to keep

The people who we thought meant to most to us
turn their back and walk away

Our dreams seem further away
Our imagination closing the doors

We aren't connected to the world
instead bright lights and false thoughts

What we had is not here anymore
as we begin to grow old, but what for?

- Emily

Untitled

I look up to the sky
The skies above are white
It's empty like my soul
need to feel with you
No matter where you go
I'll find you up above
the clouds are always
on your side
like I'm watching you
The days are gone
The time has past
all we got is here
It's hurting
to see you burning
Tearing, drowning
To see you fill with pain inside
The teardrops falling from your eyes
I ask what is going on
Your eyes pouring like a rain
can't stop watching you like this
The days are gone
and the moon collides

- Georgia

Disappearing

Technology is taking over our lives
Just like how humans are taking over nature,
We are losing our true inner self,
To the greediness of each favour,

The world is like a ball of beauty getting mixed with fire
and things sinister,
From people who are individuals, people become prime ministers,
We are running out of time because look at the world right now.
Because danger is everywhere, everything is foul
We watch over elders, while they sit patiently
Shouting I'm doing my homework stop annoying me,
Is this what the world is about,
Cause if it is come get me out

Fear is taking over our world,
Fear of movies, viruses, everything minor,
But definitely not the major things at all, they mean nothing

We need to step up and be mature,
but 13 is gone past I feel like nothing at all.
So please Lord can we have another chance
But he'll say nothing because you're done now.

- Shaun

Untitled

It was cold down there
It was a cave of darkness and regret
Lying there I was, He was, She was, They all were
Lying there covered in dirt and filth and with their dignity
and everything else lost. The only thing they had left in
their lives was bravery, which motivated them to keep
going and persevering, to fight for their lives.

BANK! CRACK! BOOM!

The sounds outside went off,
The sounds of gunshots, explosives, cannons
The sounds of people dying
Yet I lie here suffering, but safe

I could see the blood washing down out of him, her, them,
all of them.
As I make my way out of the trenches, fear fills me
eyes, and my heart
Like the darkness of the Black Plague filled many, and killed.

I am now out there, unwillingly
Suddenly a pain in the left side of my back
What is this sharp pain, not heartburn
Oh No! Wait, it can't be
But it very well and truly was, a gunshot

There I lie once more, But this time in pain
no safety, no bravery
covered in blood and dirt, final words unheard
but filled with love.

- Hiresh

Gone

This world is falling
Wild dogs are mauling
Darkness is consuming
Children are crying
Children; there dying
We say we can change
We say we can stop
Who can hold back a tide
He has made up his mind
No matter how we try
Humans can't fly
Kill
And tear
This world apart
This our destiny
Until all that's left
Are dead emotions we used to feel
And all you can hear, like a cancer growing,
Is the sound of silence
But he
He will bring us from the brink
Save our souls
Place us in a place more perfect than all
We are safe
Our world is falling
We are gone

- Andrew

Untitled

Silence
Is all that's heart.
Physical, chemical, suspension
All that's thought is in aftermath
The test, the surprise, the party, the pub, the
end.
The cold desk is all that I have between my
friends
Temptation
The urge to play
Study, study, study.
Stress, stress, stress.
Friends, games, life.
It's all disappearing bit by bit.
Science, Maths, English, Major work
Study, study, study,
Silence
It's all that's heard

- Joel

Untitled

Hope is evaporating as I write
For when we see her coming we flee
Speaking the Latin tongue she fades
As people lose her ways
Ignored for helplessness
Oblivious she becomes
As we see her as a stranger in paths way
Only few remain who follow her
For tongues of fire and ice collide.

- Maria

Nature

Knocked down one by one
What happened to the beauty that overwhelmed us
Where did all the whispers go, where did the angels go?
They looked after us they were always there
they were the guardians and protectors of the world
but now the world is naked, with no shell, vulnerable
how do we survive with no army, with no towering kings and queens.
How do we wallow in the goodness
where did the heart of life go
we ruined it
the welcoming arms, the cheerful faces, the strong gates are no longer here
peace is no longer here
life is no longer here
life is slowly trickling down the drain
now the drain is forever open
endless, evil
we have no protector, no purpose
our family and earth is long gone
because of us
we are the destroyers, the betrayers
the enemies.

- Avneet

Untitled

Like the freedom in the old days
A statue once stood.
To the people of Greece
and the children of the gods.
For the Romans had rid it
of its rightful home.
It now remains hidden in the ruins of Rome
The old days have passed
And the new have begun.
But many still remember the symbol of wisdom
The power of freedom
to reconnect the gods and their children
They will never forget
The Athena Parthenos

- Kai

Just Like That

Just like that, quickly, painlessly
another number gets added to the tally
not that it matters, right?
With all the things going on in this world
it is just that, a number.

Just like that, crocodile tears and shed
boohoo, what a nice girl now you hand over the money
funeral, hardly justice for a girl with the moon in her soul
and sun in her eyes,

I barely knew this one, as you do
But that moment of burial, in the silence of the funeral
you just know that
just like that what could've been was gone

With heavy hearts the service dragged on
it's okay, they said, that was all 'they' could do
they said, they said. What good does it do?
Drunk driver, sure but why?

Tomorrow this will just be a memory
more important things in the world, right?
Just like that...
...just like that.

- David

Untitled

Boom
Bombs bombarding the believers
People stampede their way
towards the shelter, children
cowering in the corner as ashes
and remains descend down.
Boom
The bellowing thunder of the
bombs wipes out races of
people.
A child crying at her mother's
feet. All happiness drained
out.
Boom
The mosque goes down
and so does the whole down,
weeping, wailing, frantic people, praying for their
safety but for nothing because soon after
Boom
The relentless shower cascaded down,
And no more of the city filled
with life, hope and dreams.
The smoke black as night covered
The once peaceful land.

- Zeba

Peace

Darkness is consuming peace
It starts off small,
destroying friendships, then
goes ahead and pits former friends
Against each other.
Screaming and screeching,
claws clawing,
this is what darkness does

Then the darkness consumes nations.
Wars are made,
battles are fought.
But even after the battles are completed,
darkness is still there.
It corrupts,
makes people enslave others,
Making them think they are better than others.
Darkness is consuming peace.

- Viren

Untitled

I am as frail as old tortoise
My bones weak and body thin
I am running out of time
In the past I was lucky
but now I have used it all up
I cannot breathe I have died
I have run out of time
And there are others out
there like me who will
disappear and flee.
So listen close and listen hard
use your time wisely
or it'll pass past.

- Charlie

Disappearing Poem

I hear the sounds of voices
All around the world
Crying, madness
As if our world is gone.

Our respect for other people
Has fallen down a drain
With love, trust and peace.
Our world can have a change.

Our minds filled with memories
Vanish as we move
Every step we take
We learn something that is new.

Thoughts and opinions about others
Fall out as we speak.
The truth we must always share
To bring us back in peace.

Isolated in this world
With nowhere else to go
To bring back love and trust.
Some feelings are needed to show.

- Riti

Untitled

It's not stopping.
Space is key to humanity.
Life is being squashed
into one tiny cube. More
people are being born into Earth's
space. Ife
is stretching for grasp to
reach freedom.

Refugees are fleeing war
to find safety
rapidly making population
bigger, rapidly decreasing
space on Earth.

The feeling of being
squashed into a tiny space
is suffocating. No longer
breathing. No longer
moving.

- Aidan

Untitled

I was walking through the playground.
Scrolling through my endless feed
I look up to see a girl being pushed around
Disbelief

I had always been told to stand up,
Not only for yourself,
But others.

Courage

Feeling powerful and confident,
I marched over,
Only to turn away at the flag poles

Disappointment

Why?
I didn't want to get hurt.
Scared, worried, but yet disappointed

I could have helped,
Yet instead,
I walked away

Anger

Regret trailed behind me like a dark cloud
Courage disappearing, much like my courage, to stand up

Disappointment.

- Iona

Bob

Bob walks out the front door,
and onto the street. He looks around,
and he sees bodies with heads, arms
and legs, but does he see
people? Bob goes back inside his
house and looks in the mirror and
sees a body, with a head and
legs and arms. But does he
see a person? He runs to the
store and he grabs some
materials and he builds him self
a bright red had. He walks
out side and sees everyone
looking at him The next day
he walks out side and he
sees a person. With a body and
a head and....a red hat. The next
day he sees two people with bodies
and legs and bright, red, hats
Until one day he walks outside
and he sees everybody is
wearing a bright red hat. But
does he see people?

- Ben

Disappearing Poem

My Freedom to say what I want is now disappearing
so is yours
our thoughts are no longer
allowed to be kept to ourselves, they have to step out of the shadows
but when we share these things we think of
peoples judgments are now allowed to be
kept to themselves
you are only left with
two options then
Hide them in yourself
or spill them like beans
you will get put down
either way
My freedom of speech is now disappearing
But my fear of judgement
is not
Because this society we live
in today
doesn't want to watch the
world succeed
They want to see it burn.

Lara

Untitled

Animals go quiet as sun come sup
Sounds of gunfire echo in pain
Hunter in packs searching for prey
Tigers freeze as birds are sniped
Their eyes are fire burning trees
Elephants crying just for their horns
Poachers cheering as sun goes down
Moon rises with animal drowning with sorrow
Bloody grounds stained with sorrow.

- Taryn

Untitled

Technology crammed in every nook and cranny.
The television is blurred from your eyesight.
BOOM! The bomb goes off in Syria.
But you don't really care.
Just another day, just another day.
Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube.
That's what got your life in a mess.
Priorities are wrong – everyone's is.
Electricity bills are getting higher
And that's your main worry.

On the other side of the world...
The Aussie soldiers are risking their lives
For peace and harmony
The life around the battlefield
is exhausted, silent & terrified.
A young mother holds her baby tightly
As if it is the last she does.
She prays for a better future.
She prays.

- Rachael



Candy Royale is an award winning performing writing, performance artist, poet, storyteller, activist, educator and vulnerability advocate who fuses cinematic storytelling, poetry and unique vocal rhythms with confronting, political and heart thumping content seeking to break open closed hearts. She tackles topics ranging from sexual obsession to social injustice, exploring the human condition and illuminating the darker areas of the human psyche for her audiences.

About Us

The Red Room Company creates unusual and useful poetry projects that 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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