

**THE  
RED  
ROOM  
COMPANY**



**POETRY  
OBJECT**  
2016

# WHO IS THE RED ROOM COMPANY?

Red Room Poetry Object is created by The Red Room Company, a not-for-profit arts organisation that works with more than 700 poets to produce poetic arts projects across Australia.

Red Room Poetic Learning inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry. We bring contemporary poets into classrooms to run practical writing workshops.

Find out more at [redroomcompany.org](http://redroomcompany.org)



# WHAT IS POETRY OBJECT?

*Red Room Poetry Object* is a poetry writing competition invites students from across Australia and New Zealand to submit poems about 'talismatic' objects that are special to them.

The competition is open to students in grades 3-10 and their teachers. For 2016, there is a prize pool of over \$10 000 and students can have their poems published on trains!

Find out more at [redroomcompany.org](http://redroomcompany.org)



# WHAT IS A TALISMANIC OBJECT?

1. A talisman is any object that brings a person protection or good luck e.g. a plant, coin, ring or other item of jewellery.

OR

2. It is an object that is special to just you.  
(Your poem will be about this second type of talismanic object.)





# EXAMPLES OF TALISMANS

- Historical and Cultural Objects
- Magical Objects
- Family Heirlooms
- Something that is special to you

What are some other examples?



From upper right (clockwise): Iron Throne from 'Games of Thrones', garden gnome, malachite (mineral), Fabergé egg

# GROUP TALISMANIC POEM

1. As a class, choose and discuss a special object.  
It could be something in your classroom or an object of historical or cultural significance.
2. Look carefully at the object, or an image of the object.
3. Individually compose 1 line in response to the object using specific details and a simile if you can.
4. When everyone has finished writing, read your line aloud, one after the other, to form a group poem.

\*Remember, Poetry Object has a prize for best school installation if your class wants to collectively invent a class poem as part of an installation. More info below!





# EXAMPLES OF TALISMANIC POEMS

## The Stone

A rocky beach.  
My father's hand,  
a map of callouses,  
holds a sea-polished stone.

Twisting beneath  
its unyielding surface,  
violet threads  
dance with the summer light.

Tranquil bare stone,  
refined till rough is a word, not a memory.  
Brooding silently,  
dreams lost between one swirl and the next.

Pitted bare skin,  
Veins and lines expressing labour, effort.  
Steady work,  
love hiding the burden of hope.

Auroras of emotions locked inside,  
like lions staring,  
alone in luminescent prisons.  
Captive.

**By Cameron**  
Year 9, Karamu High School, 2014





# EXAMPLES OF TALISMANIC POEMS

## Seiko Love Dream

A hulking myth hewn from the northern contours.  
He stepped out from the Finnish peaks,  
snow falling from his limbs and stood.  
His body immense and ecstatic.  
His blood surging with heat and impossible mysteries.  
His mind afire with excitements and electricities.

Beneath the elegant universe,  
as infinity shimmered through the madness in the night,  
he felt the sweet ache of frost in the groan of his limbs,  
and drank the expanse of stars with each aching breath.

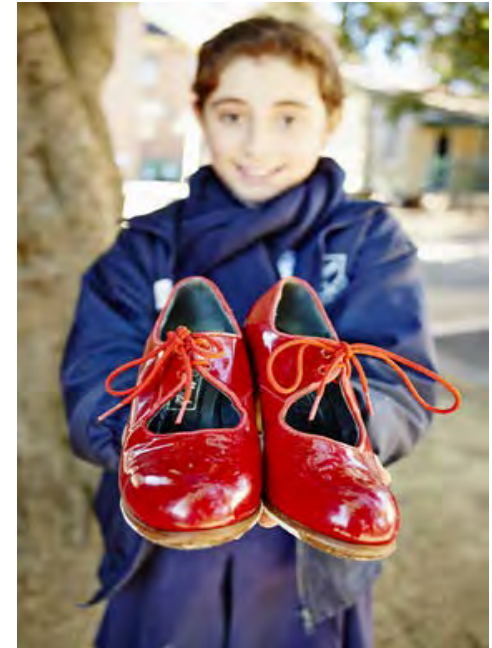
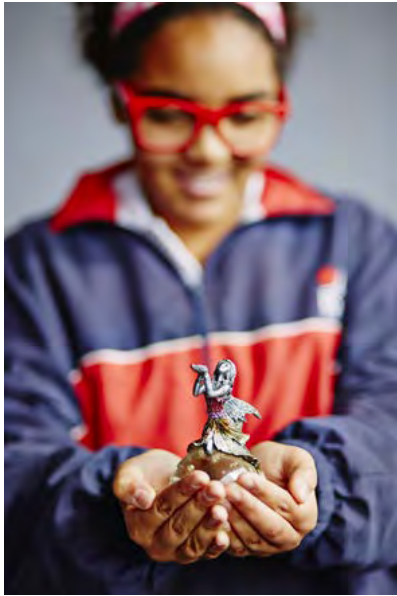
And as all life came out from the wing  
in a flutter of colour and downing,  
his heart, drumming thick with love,  
rolled into the bruised plum peaks of memory.

Around my wrist I wear his watch  
and though the ocean skyline is tangerine sweet,  
With each steady beat,  
I hear my hours  
fall softly,  
into the drifts of time.

Blake Nuto, Teacher, Balmain Public School



# EXAMPLES OF STUDENT TALISMANS





# TALISMANIC OBJECT POEM

Your task is to compose a poem about a talismanic object.

- The choice of genre or form of poem is up to you.
- You should write no more than 20 lines.

Your talismanic object poem has TWO purposes:

1) To describe your talismanic object for a reader who is unfamiliar with the object

**AND**

2) To explain to the reader why you value your talismanic object



# BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE!

- Before you begin composing your poem the following pre-writing prompts will help you develop techniques and imagery to create your poem.





# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR OBJECT

Place your object in front of you on your desk.

- Hold your object to your ear. What secrets does it whisper?
- Place your object on your cheek, describe how it feels.
- Now, using these sensory descriptions, create similes for your object using each of your senses  
(eg. 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. . .



# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR OBJECT

- Imagine your talismanic object was found by aliens. Invent another use for the object by the aliens.

## Examples

- Can a ruler be used to catch rats?
- Can a sharpener be used to make spaghetti?
- Can shoelaces be used to communicate secret messages?

- Invent three metaphors to help others see your object in new and symbolic ways. (A metaphor is a direct comparison where one thing is said to be another.)

## Examples

- The school computers were old dinosaurs.
- His smile was ice cold.
- Her glasses were barriers, separating her from the world.



# USING YOUR PRE-WRITING

- Read over your writing and circle or highlight any images or words that stand out or appeal to you.
- Circle or highlight any images or phrases that you feel are poetic or poem-like.
- Circle or highlight any words, phrases or images that describe your talismanic object.
- Circle any words or phrases that you feel might make a good title for your poem.
- Use this raw material to help write your Talismanic Poem!



# TALISMANIC POEM TEMPLATE

## WRITING YOUR OBJECT POEM

Write a final draft of your poem that is no more than 20 lines in response to your talismanic object, and enter it into the 2016 *Red Room Poetry Object* competition.

Gather sentences, feelings, memories and ideas from the activities and use them in your final draft. Remember to include your name and give your poem a title.

Name: ..... Title: .....

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
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11. ....
12. ....
13. ....
14. ....
15. ....
16. ....
17. ....
18. ....
19. ....
20. ....

Think about the rhythm, structure and layout of your composition. Some lines might only have a few words and others might be longer.

To register for Poetry Object visit  
<http://redroomcompany.org/projects/poetry-object/>  
or contact The Poetic Learning Team,  
[education@redroomcompany.org](mailto:education@redroomcompany.org)  
02 9319 5090



# HOW DO I SUBMIT MY POEM?

- Ask your teacher for the submission link or to help you upload your poem.
- All submissions will be made electronically [here](#).

Final date for submission:

No later than 5:00 pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016.





# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- All poems submitted to Poetry Object will be published via a dedicated [online library](#).
- All poems will be judged by poet Jill Jones.
- Winning and commended student and teacher poems will be exhibited at Big Fat Smile Gallery (NSW) in late 2016, along with Sydney Trains.



# 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 their 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.



Poems on kites  
Mt. St. Thomas  
Best School Installation, 2014

# HOW DOES POETRY OBJECT RECOGNISE AND REWARD STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT?

- All participating students receive certificates of achievement.
- Public displays in schools, online publication and exhibition of winning and commended poems exhibited in Wollongong in late 2016. Winning poems will also be published on Sydney Trains.
- Prizes for Winning Student Poem (Primary and Secondary), Winning Teacher Poem and 'Best School Installation' will be announced in November 2016. For more information on prizes, [click here](#).



# 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 Creative Programs, Micheal Do.

t: 02) 9319 5090

e: [education@redroomcompany.org](mailto:education@redroomcompany.org)

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

