



Youth Unlocked

with Kirli Saunders

Red Room Poetry

Red Room Poetry 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 dynamic writing workshops that awaken imaginations and support creative opportunities.

Youth Unlocked

Red Room Poetry's Youth Unlocked collaborates with students, teachers and educational communities in Behavioural Intervention Centres and Juvenile Justice Centres to deepen encounters with poetry. In 2019, a series of four workshops across May and June will see RR poet Kirli Saunders and artist David Cragg collaborate with students at Coreen School to create original poems both individually and in groups. These workshops will focus on themes of community, family and belonging, as well as connection to the earth with First Nations perspectives. Students will work to create poems, turn them into poetic art with David and to utilise Virtual Reality headsets to virtually portray their poems.. David Cragg will also create a mural at the school, incorporating both the written and visual work created by the students.



Kirli Saunders

Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai. She is the Manager of Poetic Learning and Aboriginal Cultural Liaison at Red Room Poetry. Kirli founded the Poetry in First Languages project. Her first children's picture book *The Incredible Freedom Machines* is published internationally. Her forthcoming picture books include *Our Dreaming*, *Happy Ever After* (Scholastic) and *Afloat* (Hardie Grant) Kirli's First Poetry Collection, *Kindred* (Magabala) was Highly Commended in the 2018 Black&Write! prize. Her poem 'A Dance of Hands' was Runner-up in the Nakata Brophy Prize. In 2019, Kirli will be Writer in Residence at The Literature Centre, Fremantle for 'The Sound of Picture Books'.

David Cragg

David Cragg is a multidisciplinary artist working in Dharawal Country (Illawarra Region of NSW, Australia). He is of Irish, Scottish and Bundjalung ancestry. He works as a muralist, fine artist, designer, writer, builder, sculptor, photographer and youth/disability community worker. He has exhibited work, performed live mural art, given artist talks and delivered art-making workshops across Australia.

Mother Earth

*By Kyre (Year 8), Andrew (Year 12), Peter (Year 7),
Jarryn (Year 10), and Anon Student (Year 10)*

Sun gives us light, life, and food,
he makes us happy

The trees are sisters
protecting us

Mother Earth gives us nourishment.
She cares for us

Birds give us messages
they welcome us

The moon is magnetic
and magical

The water takes out the fire

My Town

*By Kyre (Year 8), Andrew (Year 12), Peter (Year 7),
Jarryn (Year 10), and Anon Student (Year 10)*

My town busks for money,
it holds conversations on trains about how I grew up.

My town is a spider navigating through my arms,
it smells of pea and ham soup cooking on Nana's stove

My town smells of freshly cut grass
the birds shout nonsense.

My town speaks parcel tongue,
it watches over its neighbours

My town is a hawk hovering
it tells me to be safe.

We Never Die

By Kyre (Year 8)

We will never die of life
we will always glide no matter how hard is life
always try the best we can
we will never die of life

life is a climb
life is a crime
life is who we are
we will never die of life,

we will never get into strife
never give up on life
no matter the fight
we will glide to great heights
boxing for life
life is a struggle
life is part of nature
nature is part of a new experience