



Recitation competition

# Initial inspiration

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## Objectives

- To give students a first-hand encounter with poetry recitation
- To inspire students to take part in a poetry recitation activity

## Introduction

Many students will think they have never seen or heard a poem being recited. That's a great starting point for thinking about how to get them involved in Poetry By Heart. First, they need to be inspired by seeing someone else do it! Here are some ideas to get started.

## 5 activities to create a buzz

1. Surprise your students by reciting a poem (it can be a short one!) at the start of each lesson you teach that day - dare them to do the same in a week's time.
2. Co-opt an inspiring – and perhaps surprising - teacher to learn a poem by heart and recite it: one school's rugby coach was a star last year!
3. If you've run a Poetry By Heart competition before, invite last year's students to reprise their performances?
4. Watch some videos of students reciting poems at previous Poetry By Heart finals: check out the home page of the website for a showcase of last year's 8 top finalists, or use the "filter poems" function on the timeline to find "videolinks".
5. Check out Robert Pinsky's Favorite Poem project [www.favoritepoem.org/](http://www.favoritepoem.org/). Hold an open mic event where any member of the school/college community can simply read/recite a poem they love. Build from there