

## **RSL Graded Examinations in Public Speaking**

### **Poetry Suggestions**

This document is designed to support teachers and learners when preparing for an RSL Public Speaking examination.

PAA encourages creativity and does not make any compulsory recommendations for poem selection. However, teachers are advised to consider the following when selecting poems:

1. Poems must adhere to the required duration for the relevant grade (Premiere, Debut, Grade 1 or Grade 2)
2. Teachers should ensure that the content is suitable for the individual age and overall maturity of the learner.
3. Poems should be selected carefully to ensure that they provide suitable opportunity for learners to demonstrate the relevant assessment criteria.
4. Poems must be spoken in English, but any published translation of a poem written in another language is acceptable.

#### **Further tips on choosing poems:**

When looking for poems for Premiere and Debut, ensure that the poem contains language that is fully accessible to the learner. The content of the poem should be clearly identifiable, with clear and uncomplicated vocabulary. It is not necessary that the mood changes or develops through the poem.

When selecting poems for grades 1 and 2, consider how the poem may develop or change and/or there may be some degree of mood change within the poem. The theme and/or vocabulary of the poem may be slightly more complex than for Premiere/Debut, although should still be relatively uncomplicated. There should be more opportunity for learners to convey variety in their vocal and physical expression.

Below are some suggested poems.

Please note that they are examples only. Teachers/Learners have full flexibility to choose their own poem, ensuring the specific criteria of the relevant grade is met. You may use these suggestions to inform your own choices.

#### **Premiere:**

##### **1. Bubbles by James Carter**

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/bubbles/>

**2. Duck Weather**, by Shirley Hughes

<https://npdsurrey.wordpress.com/2020/08/21/duck-weather-by-shirley-hughes/>

**Cats** by Eleanor Farjeon

<https://allpoetry.com/poem/8603773-Cats-by-Eleanor-Farjeon>

**Now We Are Six**, by A. A. Milne

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/now-we-are-six-by-a-a-milne>

**The Pasture**, by Robert Frost

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44270/the-pasture>

**At the Zoo**, by William Makepeace Thackeray

<https://poets.org/poem/zoo>

**Caterpillar**, by Christina Rossetti

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poem/caterpillar/>

**Little Boy Blue**, by Darren Sardelli

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47147/little-boy-blue-56d2276483a71>

**There are big waves and little waves**, by Eleanor Farjeon

<https://rainydaypoems.com/poems-for-kids/nature-poems/there-are-big-waves-by-eleanor-farjeon/>

**My Best Friend** by Abby Jenkins

[My Best Friend By Abby Jenkins \(aajblog.com\)](https://aajblog.com/my-best-friend-by-abby-jenkins/)

**The Swing**, by Robert Louis Stevenson

[The Swing by Robert Louis Stevenson | Poetry Foundation](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44111/the-swing)

### Debut:

**Daddy fell into the pond**, by Alfred Noyes

[https://www.yourdaily-poem.com/listpoem.jsp?poem\\_id=58](https://www.yourdaily-poem.com/listpoem.jsp?poem_id=58)

**Prayer to Laughter**, by John Agard

<https://acupofpoetry.tumblr.com/post/83677221462/prayer-to-laughter-by-john-agard>

**I Am the Rain**, by Grace Nichols

<https://www.greatschools.org/library/cms/05/22705.pdf>

**Mountain Child** by Nirmala Putul, translated by Lucy Rosenstein

<https://www.poetrytranslation.org/poems/mountain-child>

**My Big Fat Cat**, by Christian M. Mitewu

[My Big, Fat Cat - a poem by AnImperfectPoet - All Poetry](https://www.allpoetry.com/poem/1000000000/My-Big-Fat-Cat-a-poem-by-AnImperfectPoet)

**My Shadow**, by Robert Louis Stevenson

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43196/my-shadow>

**Friends**, by Abbie Farwell Brown

[Friends By Abbie Farwell Brown, Famous Children Poem \(familyfriendpoems.com\)](https://familyfriendpoems.com/poems/friends-by-abbie-farwell-brown)

## Grade 1

**The Secret Rhyme for Orange**, by Brian Patten

Found in The Oxford book of Children's poetry, which can be purchased here:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-Book-Childrens-Poetry/dp/0192762761>

**Puppy And I**, by A. A. Milne

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/puppy-and-i-by-aa-milne>

**My Doggy Ate My Essay**, by Darren Sardelli

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/145936/my-doggy-ate-my-essay>

**Cat-Rap** by Grace Nichols

<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/cat-rap/>

**Are we nearly there yet?** by John Larkin

<https://scfordham.blogspot.com/>

## Grade 2

**Creative Writing**, by Gervase Phinn

<http://www.wordpower.ws/poetry/poetry-gervase-phinn.html#creative>

**Nature Trail**, by Benjamin Zephaniah

<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/nature-trail/>

**Dad and The Cat and The Tree**, by Kit Wright

<http://www.english-for-students.com/dad-and-the-cat-and-the-tree.html>

**These are the Hands**, by Michael Rosen

<https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/these-are-hands/>

*for the 60th anniversary of the NHS*

**Hedgehog**, by Paul Muldoon

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/52430/hedgehog>



Life doesn't frighten me, by Maya Angelou

<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/life-doesn-t-frighten-me/>

I Remember, I remember, by Thomas Hood

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44387/i-remember-i-remember>