



The Rugby School Poetry Prize 2020

Year 5 writers are invited to submit poems on the theme of FAMILY

Winners/commended poets will be awarded with a poetry book prize and certificate. At a future date we hope to hold an award ceremony and creative writing workshop for shortlisted writers.

Competition Rules:

Writers must be in Year 5 for the academic year 2019-2020

Writers may enter more than one poem

You cannot enter a poem written by more than one author

Poems cannot have won any other competition

Poems must be the original work of the author

The writer's full name and school must be clearly visible on each entry

Line Limit: 40 lines (no minimum)

Submission date: midday Wed 17th June

Email your poems to:

poetryprize@rugbyschool.net (Please put **Poetry Prize – Your Name** in the subject of the email)

Good luck!

Ideas To Get You Started:

1) Flat-Pack Families

Read the following poem by **Jonathan Edwards**:

Building my Grandfather

He comes flat-pack, a gift for my eighteenth.
We tip the bits out on the living room carpet:
nuts and bolts, a spanner, an Allen key,
tubes halfway between telescopes and weapons.
At first he goes together easily:
slipper left foot clicks into the ankle,
shin joins at a perfect right angle.
We have more of a problem with the right knee,
but my father remembers it was always gammy
from twelve-hour shifts, labouring in tight seams.
I fit the lungs, pumping in mustard gas
which filled each breath he took from 1918.
Something seems to be missing from the heart
and for a while we search beneath the sideboard,
but then my father says it's probably
for the old man's brother, who joined up when he did
and didn't make it back. The cheek and neck
and nose slot in and soon, we've almost got him:
my father holds the lips, the final bit
before he opens his eyes and I meet him.
A glance in the mirror at what he's going to see:
a pale-faced boy by an electric fire,
Nike swoosh like a medal on my chest.
It's then I say *Stop*. What will he make of me?

Imagine you had to build one of your family members from scratch. How could you show their personality and experiences as you 'reconstruct' them?

Perhaps you could make one of your family members another way. What happens if you plant/paint/bake/compose them?

2) The Furniture Game

The Furniture Game is a fun and effective way to create original metaphors in your poems.

Choose a member of your family and then answer the following questions about them:

If they were an item of clothing, what would they be?

If they were a vehicle, what would they be?

If they were a drink, what would they be?

If they were a colour, what would they be?

If they were a place, where would they be?

If they were a time of day, what would they be?

If they were a noise, what would they be?

Your final poem might look something like this:

Finn

He is a superhero's cape – electric blue, silver 'F' for Flash.

He is a bike. A laser-red bike with rocket boosters, no stabilisers and a bell.

He is lemonade on a July afternoon under the sprinkler.

He is green-for-go.

He is here and now with me and as far away as the moon.

He is 5am. Wide awake.

He is engines roaring, just revving up.

3) Location, Location, Location

Write a poem about a family member without describing them at all...

Instead, think carefully about the *place* where you most often picture them and describe them through that location.

For example:

Granny's Greenhouse

Mum's Study

Dad in the Kitchen

Or you could describe them through a particular *object* with which you always associate them.

For example,

My Grandpa's Watch

My Big Brother's Apple AirPods

Aunty Meg's Bird Table

(Remember that you are writing a poem, so leave plenty of white space on your page rather than always writing to the end of the line).