

2023 PRESCRIBED POETRY



2023

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ALL NAA EISTEDDFODS 2023 SET POETRY & VOORGESKREWE POËSIE

Choose one to prepare from the options provided per grade.



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SET POEM OPTIONS

Pre-School

My Flower – Margaret Schroeder

I had a little seed,
I put it in a pot.
I put it in the sunshine,
And watered it a lot.

I waited and waited,
I watched it grow and grow.
And then one day a flower
came out to say hello!

I have a little frog - Unknown

I have a little frog
His name is Tiny Tim.
I put him in the bathtub,
To see if he could swim.
He drank up all the water,
And gobbled up the soap.
And when he tried to talk.
He had a bubble in his throat.

My Teddy Bear – Unknown

A teddy bear
Is a faithful friend.
You can pick him up
At either end.
His fur is the colour of breakfast toast,
And he's always there
When you need him the most.

Little Penguin – Unknown

I'm a little penguin,
Black and white.
I waddle to the left,
And I waddle to the right.
When I'm feeling hungry,
Splash and splash,
I jump in the water,
And catch a fish.

GRADE 1 – GRADE 3

It's a BUG! – Sue LaBella

"It's a bug," said father.
"It has wings" said Joe.
Mother said, "Look, six legs!
What else do we know?"

"It eats other bugs.
The harmful ones, you see.
It's also called an insect,"
Said my Grandpa Lee.

Little Jane exclaimed,
"It's red with small black dots."
(Jane is pretty smart
For such a little tot.)

Then we all smiled,
As the bug crawled away.
We called out loud to her,
"Oh ladybug, please stay!"

I Wish I had a dragon – Shel Silverstein

I wish I had a dragon
With diamondstudded scales,
With claws like silver sabres,
And fangs like silver nails,
A dragon fierce and faithful,
Always ready by my side,
A dragon to defend me
Or take me for a ride

I wish I had a dragon
With eyes of shining gold,
Who breathed a plume of fire
Whenever it was told,
A dragon so ferocious
It might frighten Frankenstein,
But not a lazy dragon
Who sleeps all day...like mine.

Flying Popcorn – Unknown

A piece of popcorn
Escaped from the pan
And flew across the kitchen
Like Superman.

It ping-ponged back and forth
Between the oven and the freezer.
Then shot up to the ceiling



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Like a daredevil trapeezer.

I tried and tried to catch it,
But it never missed a trick.
So finally, I gave up,
And ate a licorice stick.

If dogs could talk – Kirk Mann

If dogs could talk I think our dog
Would have a lot to say.
He'll probably tell my little brother,
“SIT and now just STAY.”

He'd probably tell my sister,
“How about and ice cream cone?”
He'd probably tell my mother,
“Please go get me a big bone.”

He'd probably tell my father,
“Make a left turn up ahead.”
He'd probably tell me,
“Kid, tonight
I'm sleeping in your bed.”

Grade 4 – Grade 5

If my dinner came alive – Felicia Juliano

if my dinner came alive
I don't know what I'd do
I'd probably scream and run around
what about you?
My chicken started clucking
and my broccoli started to talk.
My meatloaf got up and stretched
and on my plate began to walk.
I don't know what's causing this nonsense
how did my dinner come to life?
Even my fork came alive!
Then the spoon, and then the knife!
Maybe I am crazy!
It must be all in my head
Then as I looked over the table,
All I saw was dancing bread.

Our classroom is covered in sparkles – Kenn Nesbitt

Our classroom is covered in sparkles,
and tinsel that twinkles and shines.
The kids are all caked with confetti that glows
with glistening rainbow designs.

Our teacher is spattered with spangles.
She's shimmering, shiny, and bright.
She looks like a disco ball burst overhead
and splashed her with speckles of light.

Our desks are all glimmering brightly.
The chairs and the carpets are gleaming.
There isn't a surface inside of our room
that isn't bedazzling and beaming.

Our janitor's grumpy and grumbling.
To him it's just that much more litter.
I guess that we shouldn't share Valentine's
cards
in envelopes loaded with glitter.

Sleepyhead – Paul Kennedy

Oh, please let me have another half hour in
bed.
It feels like the pillow is stuck to my head.

I'm cozy and I'm warm and my dreams are all
nice.
I don't want to face a day of frost and of ice,

My eyes keep on closing, my brain's in a fuzz.
If I don't get up soon, I'll miss the school bus.

Why is the best sleep when it's time to arise?
I only wish now I could open my eyes.

I'm drifting again; the world's going dim;
it's the Land of Nod that I'm entering in.

Then suddenly I'm awake, with a start and a
jump.
I say to myself you are a great chump.

School is no-go, at least for today.
Why is that so? Because it's Saturday-hooray.



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My big fat cat – Christian Mitewu

I own a big fat cat-
The fattest for miles around.
Wherever there's lots of food,
That's where he'll be found.

He's really good at eating.
It's a talent, I suppose.
I'm sure if he keeps at it
He'd win the talent shows.

I own a big fat cat-
He weighs at least a ton.
He couldn't run to save his life.
Yes, he isn't much fun.

His favourite room's the kitchen.
(I'm sure we all know why.)
He eats just about everything,
So that's why, with a sigh...

I'd like to tell you, Teacher,
I'd like to tell you straight,
I might have "accidentally" dropped
My homework in his plate.

Grade 6 – Grade 7

Deep in our refrigerator – Jack Prelutsky

Deep in our refrigerator,
there's a special place
for food that's been around awhile...
we keep it, just in case.
'It's probably too old to eat,'
my mother likes to say.
'But I don't think it's old enough
for me to throw away.'

It stays there for a month or more
to ripen in the cold,
and soon we notice fuzzy clumps
of multicolored mold.
The clumps are larger every day,
we notice this as well,
but mostly what we notice
is a certain special smell.

When finally, it all becomes
a nasty mass of slime,
my mother takes it out, and says,

'Apparently, it's time.'
She dumps it in the garbage can,
though not without regret,
then fills the space with other food
that's not so ancient yet.

Smart Phone – Dumb User – Rick Cotton

My new phone is "smart." I guess that I'm not.
Amazing what all this here smart phone has
got.
TV and Weather and Internet, too.
There's just no limits to what it can do.
Check my blood pressure and my temperature
Without even probing all my apertures.
I now know the time in Paris or Greece.
I can track the migration of thousands of
geese
Or find Chinese food; it's here on this map.
Oops, my finger just slipped, now where was
that at?
A camera...a CAMERA! Now I can take shots
Of everyone I know (who'd rather I not).
Push this here button and take me a "selfie."
(If it had a nose would this thing take a
"smellfie"?)
Email to pester with, video to shoot,
Maps to drive 'round with, wow that's a hoot!
A compass to guide me home if I'm lost.
They're fun and they're useful and "techy"
and all
...But how do I just simply make a phone call?

Grandad can't see his feet – Graham Craven

Granddad's got new glasses,
But he still can't see his feet.
No, his eyes are not the problem.
It's the amount of food he eats.

People often stop and ask,
"Is his belly real,
Or did he eat a basketball
With last night's evening meal?"

One day he'll surely pop
And Gran will go berserk. She'll say,
"See what you've done, you greedy old fool,
Making me more work."

Granddad will simply laugh and say,
"Now look, my turtle dove,
If I keep getting bigger,



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There'll be more of me to love."

He calls himself the perfect man,
"Every Grandma's dream,"
Then a smirk spreads across his face
Like the cat that got the cream.

Granddad may be extra large,
But he's a sweet and lovely guy,
The heavyweight champion of the world,
And the toffee apple of my eye.

My dog ate my homework – Denise Rodgers

The dog ate my homework
just like it was kibble.
He started up slow
with a cute little nibble
and then scarfed it down
with a burp and a snort.
How was he to know
that my special report
was due here this morning
precisely at 8:00.
So now it is eaten.
I'm sorry it's late.
But what can you do
when your dog needs a snack
and your stapled report
comes under attack?
I told him to stop
but he just wouldn't mind.
When my dog is hungry,
he's not very kind.
I'll bring it tomorrow,
and you'll see it then.
So long as my dog
isn't hungry again.

High School

Grade 8 – 9

In Each of us – Nur Hafizah Isnawan

In each of us,
There's a sun
That shines
And lights the gloomy day away.

In each of us,
There's a river
That sometimes flows
And washes away the pain no one knows.

In each of us,
There's a thunder
That may strike
And sink our voyage of life.

In each of us,
There's a book
That always keeps
And treasures those good and hard times
together.

In each of us,
There's a thing called heart
That beats
And pours these emotions full of color.

The Walrus and the Carpenter – Lewis Carroll

"The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might:
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright —
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done —
"It's very rude of him," she said,
"To come and spoil the fun."

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:
No birds were flying overhead —



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There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;
They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand:
If this were only cleared away,'
They said, it would be grand!'

If seven maids with seven mops
Swept it for half a year,
Do you suppose,' the Walrus said,
That they could get it clear?'
I doubt it,' said the Carpenter,
And shed a bitter tear.

Grade 10 – 12

The Dancer – C Randall

"What was she like?" they asked, and then I knew
That I had never looked upon her face
That I could tell them of her timeless grace,
Curve of the neck, light gesture of the hand;
The picture of a swallows flight I drew.
And hoped, perhaps, that they might understand.

"What colour was her hair?" I do not know,
And yet I think it misted a white arm
And mingled with her dancing. There was a charm
In every movement, and all most sweet,
Most unforgotten wind-swept and fro,
The leaf-blown motion of elfin feet.

"Had her eyes beauty?" I cannot tell, alas!
I saw the magic in a changing dream...
A flash of silver on a wandering stream...
And I have kept for my remembering
How through the morning skies the wild swans pass,
And I recall the tremor of a wing.

The Storm – K Mansfield

I ran to the forest for shelter,
Breathless, half sobbing,
I put my arms around a tree,
Pillooned my head against the rough bark.
"Protect me," I said, "I am a lost child."
But the tree showered silver drops on my face and hair.
A wind sprang up from the ends of the earth;
It lashed the forest together.
A huge green wave thundered and burst over my head.

I prayed, implored, "Please take care of me."
But the wind pulled at my cloak and the rain beat upon me.

Little rivers tore up the ground and swamped the bushes.
A frenzy possessed the earth.
I felt that the earth was drowning.
In a bubbling cavern of space.
I alone, smaller than the smallest fly – was alive and terrified.
Then for what reason I know not,
I became triumphant.
"Well kill me" I cried and ran out into the open.
But the storm ceased, the sun spread his wings
And floated serene in the silver pool of the sky.
I put my hand over my face: I was blushing.
And the trees swung together and delicately laughed.



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VOORGESKREWE POËSIE

Kleuterskool

My pa is rower as jou pa – Jaco Jacobs

My pa spring tou met 'n ratelslang!
My pa kan 'n leeu met sy kaal hande vang!
My pa kan sy tande me Tabasco-sous borsel.
My pa kan 'n baksteen met sy vuiste
vermorsel.
Spider-man en Superman bewonder my pa.
Hy's bang vir net mooi nik... behalwe my ma!

Ou vrou in 'n skoen – Onbekend

Daar is 'n ou vrou,
Sy woon in 'n skoen.
Sy het so baie kinders
Sy weet nie wat om met hulle te
Doen.
Sy gee hulle sop
Sonder bitter of brood.
Dan kry elkeen pak,
Van klein na groot.

Grootword – C Saaiman

Ek wonder en wonder
Hoe word 'n mens groot?
Maar ek dink tog ek weet:
Die kos wat ek eet,
Sak af in my voete en bene
Dan stoot dit my en my kop
So op en op en op.

Kaalvoetjies – Onbekend

Ek loop so graag met voetjies kaal,
Kaalvoetjies in die sand;
Ek speel so graag met water,
Met water buitekant.
Maar mamma roep my binne,
Sy sê ek mors te veel.
Ek wonder tog of iemand
Ooit sonder mors kan speel.

Graad 1 – 3

Ek word wakker laat een nag - Onbekend

Ek word wakker laat een nag
Want ek hoor iemand snik baie sag.
Dis al die tyd my baba-pop wat huil:
"My rok is stukkend, my beentjies is vuil"
Niemand is eintlik vir my lief,
My mamma behandel my baie stief!"
Toe wip ek gou-gou uit die bed
Want sy's die beste poppie wat ek het. "Ag
nee, poppie-lief, jy's regtig laf
Kom ek vee gou jou lyfie met 'n waslap af.
Nou trek jou skoon aan, net watter rokkie jy
wil hê
En ek sal jou nooit weer op die vloer laat lê!"

Reën – Onbekend

Dis tog so lekker as dit reën
So drup-drup-drup op die blare
En die druppels hang soos pêrels
Aan ons toutjiesrighe hare.
As dit weer buite skoon is
En al die slotte loop
Dan kan ons tog te heerlik
ons voete daarin doop.
Mammie sê ons kinders
moet liewer binne bly
want as ons natreën, sal ons dalk
'n kwaai verkoue kry,
Maar wat van al die bome
Wat altyd buite bly?
Nog nooit het ek gehoor
Dat een 'n seerkeel kry.

Stink Gogga – Piet Swanepoel

Stinkgogga se hartjie is so seer
sy het nie een ou maatjie meer.
Sy ruik so sleg vertel ek jou
geen mens of dier kan dit hou!
Hulle het haar in die bad gestop
en vir 'n hele dag lank geskrop.
Reukwater gooi hul oor haar lyfie
[dis ook maar goed sy was 'n wyfie].
'n Paar dae en sy ruik weer net so!
Die goggas wou dit glad nie glo!
Dis in haar bloed dis wat hulle nie weet nie
Sy ruik so, dat die ander haar nie eet nie.



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Ek is bang vir 'n volstruis – Hester Heese
Ek is bang vir Volstruis
Met sy lang slangnek
As hy aankom na my
Moet ek my bene rek
Ek is bang vir die slurp
Van ou Olifantbul
Met sy ore wat flap
En sy tandé wat krul
Maar ou Trapsuutjies
Met sy ogies wat draai
Kan maar enige tyd
Aan my vinger kom swaai.

Graad 4 – 5

Vreugde Lied – Jaco Jacobs

“Dis die laaste dag van die skool!
Kom ons doen 'n dansie!
Dié nare ou plek sluit sy deure
vir ses volle weke vakansie!
Geen simpel skoolklok wat ons gedurig pla
nie;
nie een enkele oggend gaan ons vroeg
opstaan nie.
Niks meer vervelige klasse nie,
die eksamen is oor en verby!
So, waarvoor wag ons nog?
Kom ons kry ons ry!”
Op die speelgrond staan die kinders
en luister verstom
na die rumoerige liedjie wat uit
die personeelkamer kom:
“Dis die laaste dag van skool!
Kom ons doen 'n dansie!
Dié nare ou plek sluit sy deure
Vir ses volle weke vakansie!

Voetbal Speel – Helene F. Lochner

VOETBAL SPEEL

Die seuns is na die voetbalveld
Daar sit hul orals rond.
Kouse, skoene, baadjies uittrek,
Laat lê maar op die grond!
Die kante word nou eers gekies.
Dit is 'n kaalvoetspan,
Wat skrum en skop en vang en loop,
So hard as hulle kan.
En Jan, die domkop van ons klas,
Is op die voetbalveld,
Vir dié wat kyk, en dié wat speel –

Niks anders as 'n held!
Hy loop soos wind en vang nooit mis.
Hy plant jou op jou kop;
So lank as jy nog gras eet daar,
Het hy 'n doel geskop!

Meneer se slimste kind - Onbekend

Die skooldag begin met gebed en gesang
en in die Bybelles hoor ons van “die slang”.
Wiskunde is vir my geen probleem
en spelling vorm deel van my sisteem.
Pouse verkies hul soos een man
my tot kaptein van die rugbyspan.
Met geskiedenis gaan dit voor die wind;
ek is “Meneer se slimste kind”,
In Engels is ek beter as die res;
selfs Sotho verloop sonder moles.
Die skooldag eindig met 'n halfuur se sang
en net daar word die bordjies verhang.
My stem is soos die van 'n kraai;
ek voel hoe die irritasie in my laai.
Van pure frustrasie begin ek Juffrou verpes.
EK's 'n groot steuring vir die les.
Die hoof se lat praat hard en seer.
“Juffrou, ek belowe, ek sal nie weer –
Volgende keer sing ek, niemand sal my keer.
...
Al klink dit dan soos soos donderweer!”

Die Boemelaar – Hennie Aucamp

Oupa Bibberbene
Sit of 'n bank en huil.
Oupa Bibberbene
Het nêrens om te skuil.

Die skollies het sy jas gevat
En ook sy halwe brood.
Maar niemand wat verbyloop
Wil luister na sy nood.

Oupa Bibberbene
Is al bitter oud
En wanneer oupas oud raak
Kry oupas baie koud.

Moet hy sy laaste winter
Soos 'n voel sit op 'n tak?
Af, mense, wees genadig.
En geen hom 'n onderdak.



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Graad 6 – 7

Die mot en die kers – CJ Langehoven

Die ander motte was dom en dwaas,
Maar ek sal vér van die kers af bly;
Hier vér uit die skemerte sal ek kyk,
Hier vér is dit veilig en kyk is vry.

Maar ek hoef nie van éénkant net te kyk –
Ek vlieg op dieselfde afstand om,
Dan weet ek van álkant hoe hy lyk
Om beter te sorg om nie nader te kom.

My sirkel is skeef en ingebuig,
Maar dáár ook nog, waar ek naaste was,
Het daar niks gebeur – ek maak verniet
My velling so groot en so vér van die as.

Die wieletjie draai ál vinniger om,
En die lig en die gloed word ál groter genot:
En die vellings word nouer ál rondom die as –
En die end van die wiel is die as van die mot.

'n Sprokie – Vanuit Wilgerboompies

Ek ken 'n mooi klein sprokie,
wat so na waarheid klink –
dis dat die tortel altyd
sy water troewel drink.
Kom hy by helder plassies,
dan sal hy dinkend neig
as eers, na sagte roering,
die modderwolkies styg.
Dáárom sing hy so droewig
van donker voël-leed;
Dáárom tooi hy hom stemmig
met dowwe verekleed.
So is daar somber siele
waar hy my aan laat dink,
wat, soos die tortel, troewel
die lewenswater drink.
Vir alle lewensliefheid,
vir vreugdesang bevrees,
drink hulle geen genoeëns
of dié moet troewel wees.

Verslaap – Onbekend

Vroeg vanmôre toe die reën begin
kruip ek diep-diep onder my kombersie in.
Toe ek eindelik wakkarskrik, weet ek
hierdie dag het skeef begin.

Ek gryp na skoen en trui,
want Pa wil sommer dadelik ry.
Daar sit nog wit skuim om my mond,
maar ons ry, want die klok gaan lui!

Skaars sit ons in die klas
of ek gryp my hart vas:
ek het my wiskundeboek vergeet . . .
Vandag is skool 'n ware las.

Maar toe sê kwaai juffrou Louw
(haar oë is mos so bibberblou):
“Bêre maar julle boeke, klas,
Juffrou het nie vandag haar boek onthou!”

Vroeg vanmôre toe die reën begin,
kruip sy diep-diep onder haar kombersie in.
Toe sy eindelik wakkarskrik,
weet sy hierdie dag het skeef begin.

Mini-Dinosaurus Dier – Zandra Bezuidenhout

My klein kameleon,
my mini-dinosaurus dier,
jy dra die mooiste kleure op jou vel
jou lyfie is 'n prentjie
van bont geskenkpapier.
Ek sien jou twee-toon kloutjies klim
tot in die hoogste takke in
daar waar jy op jou eentjie
jou diertjie-liedjie sing:
“My drakielyfie is 'n kleurestreep,
daar's knoppies op my rug;
ek het 'n skerp gevreetjie met 'n lang, dun
tong
en 'n wielie-walie stert.”
Trap suutjies klein bont monster,
jy maak ons maklik skrik.
jy lyk 'n bietjie soos 'n baba-likkewaan,
'n grillerige hardedief;
maar met jou ronde oumens-ogies
en 'n bekkie wat so honger hap,
kry elkeen wat jou optel
en aan jou skurwe lyfie vat
dié mini-dinosaurusdier
vir altyd lief!



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Graad 8 – 9

Eksamens – Annesu de Vos

dit is kakofonie
wanneer jy bang verwilderder
kantel
deur die nag
tussen die bladsye
van hoofstuk vyf
se Klimatologie;
die lêboor van die wyfiesprinkaan
Klop
haar eiers stelselmatig stoot
tot in die veilige vesting
van jou dop –
jy sien die dood
as die Franse Revolusie bloedloos stol
Sodat die lewensiklus
van die mielieboorwurm
in die hamerslae van jou kop
voltooiing vind

tot jy verkorrel
in die suiker van soet slaap

16-Jarige Gedagtes – Zahn de Bruyn

Ek maak Mona Lisa
se smile myne
en gooi klippies
wat hopscotch speel
op die water;
die rimpeltjies
van jou blou oë kring
al wyer en wyer
oor jou songsig.
Ons skaduwees dans
ligvoets
oor die water
saam met die bloekoms
en in die wit
flaffie weerkaatsing
daaronder
bou ons 'n eie
kaia vir die tye.
Maar ek skrik
en lag ontsteld
vir my sestien-jaar-gedagtes
se onvergeeflike uitspattighed.

Graad 10 – 12

Ek maak nog deure oop – Onbekend

Ek maak nog deure oop
op kloppe in die nag.

Dit is net die wind
wat drome deur die vensters jaag.

Ek kon skryf: die bome sny die maan
soos 'n skulp uit die nag los,

maar om oor bome te skryf in dié laat seisoen,
met winterhande, help nie.

Die wind raak verstrik in die takke,
wriemel haar los en word stil.

Nou kan ek die laaste reëls
met en oor jou skryf

en met 'n ander sê: Vannag
kan ek die treurigste verse skryf.

Hoe het jy in-en uitgewaai
en tyd nie versteur nie.

Ek kan nie erken
dat jy nie meer hier is nie,

en luister nog vir 'n klop
met een oor waar ek skryf.

Niemand sing hier in die agtergrond nie.
Ek luister en hoor niks.

Besoekersboek - Fanie Olivier

op die sel se mure het iemand uitgekrap
(of liever: ingekrap): sy naam en al die dae
van sy duskantse verblyf. gaan mens op stap
deur duikweë stasies onder brûe bly draai die
vrae

wie was die peter? waar kom pam vandaan?
hoe het die vriendskap tussen brian en ed
begin?
sou w.a.l. se ouers hom meer as normaal
geslaan het?
hoe lank het lieb sy liesbet bly bemin?

ek loer na hiërogliewe. 'n boer het my gewys



ALL NAA EISTEDDFODS 2023 SET POETRY & VOORGESKREWE POËSIE

Choose one to prepare from the options provided per grade.

waar jagtonele oorgebly het teen die krans.
vóór in die gideons se bybel is 'n lang lys
lesers wat hul teen sterflikheid probeer
verskans.

'n kind hoes seer; 'n lam huil stomgemaak. ek
skraap
moed bymekaar: ek was hier en hier het ek
geslaap.