

In March 2017, Oxfordshire Science Festival asked young people to write a short poem on any topic of science, using any style. We had over 400 entries ranging from limericks and rap to haiku, acrostic poems and poems based on a shape.

The winning entries and runners-up are all published here. These nine poems were performed at the Oxfordshire Science Festival in Oxford Town Hall on Saturday 17 June 2017.

The word cloud on the cover of this anthology represents thousands of inspired words from pupils at the following schools:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Botley Primary | Marcham CE Primary |
| Burford Secondary | Marlborough CE Secondary |
| Didcot Girls' Secondary | North Hinksey CE Primary |
| Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary | Northbourne CE Primary |
| Ducklington CE Primary | St Blaise CE Primary |
| Fitzharrys Secondary | St Joseph's Catholic Primary |
| Harriers Banbury Academy | St Mary & St John Primary |
| Headington Preparatory | Ridgeway CE Primary |
| King Alfred's Academy | University Technical College, Oxfordshire |
| Ladygrove Park Primary | Woodstock CE Primary |
| Madley Brook Primary | <i>together with some home-school pupils</i> |

Panel of Judges:

Niall Munro is Senior Lecturer in American Literature and Director of the Oxford Brookes Poetry Centre.

Kelley Swain has published several anthologies and was poet-in-residence at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History in 2016.

Claire Hamnett is a physics teacher and leader of Oxfordshire Science Learning Partnership to support world-leading Science education for young people.

Tomasz Dobrzycki is a University of Oxford DPhil student and was a science-rapping contestant in the UK FameLab competition.

Dane Comerford is Director of the Oxfordshire Science Festival.

Cathy Rose is Events Manager, leading on the Oxfordshire Science Festival poetry competition.



Cassini

by Benjamin, age 6

Cassini, Cassini, what is over there?
Send us your pictures so we can look and share.

Cassini, Cassini, thank you for all the news,
From Saturn's rings and its icy moons.

Cassini, Cassini, it's time to go I fear,
We'll be sad to say goodbye,
As you zoom through Saturn's atmosphere.

Science

by Annaliese, age 7

Science is interesting
Challenging each other
Incredible grey fossils
Excellent and exciting science
New exciting things are being found out
Could you be a scientist?
Exciting

Fossils

by Holly, age 7

Fossils are rock, fossils are hard,
fossils are good. But what were
fossils' names? fossils are fun,
fossils were fossils.

Metamorphosis

by Kathi, age 9

Magic key to life
Inside a rounded object
Cut off from the world

Slow roll slow wave slow
Its wavy body moves on
Pushing and pulling

Morphing miracle
Cracking noise as it opens
Waiting to emerge

The wings unfold and,
Symmetrical as mirrors,
They shut and open

Transforming beauty
A picture made by nature
Metamorphosis.

The Water Cycle

by Irene, age 11

I'd love to be a water drop,
Yes, that's what I'd like to be.
Swimming through the deep blue sea,
What a blast that would be.

As the beautiful sun comes out,
I'd start to fly, break free!
People say I'm evaporating,
But I'm flying, don't you see?

I'd drift with the other water drops,
Soaring through the sky.
A majestic white cloud I'd become,
Condensing, as I fly.

Me and the other water drops,
Would finally precipitate.
Falling 'til we hit the ground,
Hoping to join a lake.

After I've met my fate,
I'd stop and look for a creek.
I'd run off to find more water drops,
In the wide...blue...sea.

The Chaotic Lab

by Ewan, age 11

A head full of ideas, desperate to know
The experiment is all, and nothing's for show
The lab of the chemist shows the state of his mind
Spills and breaks, dead ends left behind.

Small glass bottles litter the lab
Papers lie open, ready to grab.
Piles on gas taps, make leaks you can smell
You'd be right to worry it might not end well.

But from the chaos success will emerge
A phenomenal end to a passionate search
He thrives in the chaos, the spills and the stench
And brightens the future from his chemist's bench.

Well, what's in a cell?

by Lucy, age 12

Cells are in you, me and plants you see.
In plant and animal cells,
The Nucleus tells,
The cell what to do,
But stores information too.
In the Cytoplasm,
Chemical reactions happen.
A cell can't go far,
Without a Mitochondria,
It releases lots of energy,
By using respiration you see.
It might be a pain,
For a cell membrane,
For it is in charge,
Of who can come in without a big barge.
Animal cells are good and all,
But plant cells have it all,
Including a cell wall,
This is a support to make the cell more rigid,
But it will never ever start to fidget.
Inflating up with air,
This is not rare,
For the Vacuole will support the cell,
The Vacuole can do this well.
Green like the grass,
This is the Chloroplast,
So what does it do?
Converts energy which helps me and you.

Electricity Rap

by MC Van de Graaff a.k.a. William, age 13

Current = the amount of electrons flowing per second
I reckon
That they have a negative charge
9 down 3 up quarks.
There is also something called resistance.
Electrons struggle to get past, it depends on the distance.

Also the temperature, material and thickness.
All affects the electrons' quickness
Around the different types of circuit
Series and parallel are the different types
It's a series it gets so hype
Cus the voltage is shared and the current is the same
Parallel is the other one's name
And in this one voltage is the same and current is shared
Now back to resistance don't come unprepared
Just remember
That resistance (Ohms) is equal to voltage over current.

Now moving on, we are talking about static electricity.
Its very simple and doesn't involve much complicity.
A negative charge builds up when there are electrons
Another word for these are leptons
They want to discharge (or earthed) when there's a build-up of them
And that's what causes lightning.

Supernova

by Charlotte, age 13

Dust and gas,
Heat and light,
Swirling, spiralling, blazing, living.
Heat pushing,
Gravity pulling;
Cosmic giants battling.

Hydrogen diminishing,
Fusion, fusion.
Helium spiralling,
Fusion, fusion.
Heaving, sighing, growing, cooling.
Expanding, contracting.
Expanding, contracting.
Fusion, fusion,
EXPLOSION!

Spiralling, swirling, blazing, dying.
Dust and gas,
Planets and stars,
Showering the universe:
New beginnings.

Dense core.
Neutron star.
Dust and gas.
Dust to dust,
Gas to gas,
Black hole.

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Poetry of Science

An anthology of young voices
written in 2017 for the
Oxfordshire Science Festival