

Year 9 Class Competition.

Send a recording of yourself reciting one of these poems to your teacher by Friday January 29th.

“I’ve learned to sing a song of hope”
by Georgia Douglas Johnson (1941)

I’ve learned to sing a song of hope,
I’ve said goodbye to despair,
I caught the note in a thrush’s throat,
I sang – and the world was fair!
I’ve learned to sing a song of joy
It bends the skies to me,
The song of joy is the song of hope
Grown to maturity.

I’ve learned to laugh away my tears
As through the dark I go,
For love and laughter conquer fears
My heart has come to know.

I’ve learned a song of happiness
It is a song of love,
For love alone is happiness
And happiness is love.

“Rosa” by Rita Dove (1999)

How she sat there,
the time right inside a place
so wrong it was ready.

That trim name with
its dream of a bench
to rest on. Her sensible coat.

Doing nothing was the doing:
the clean flame of her gaze
carved by a camera flash.

How she stood up
when they bent down to retrieve
her purse. That courtesy.



“Border” by Gillian Clarke (1989)

It crumbles
where the land forgets its name
and I’m foreign in my own country.
Fallow, pasture, ploughland
ripped from the hill
beside a broken farm.

The word’s exactness
slips from children’s tongues.
Saints fade in the parishes.
Fields blur between the scar
of hedgerow and new road.
History forgets itself.

At the garage they’re polite.
‘Sorry love, no Welsh.’
At the shop I am slapped
by her hard ‘What!’
They came for beauty
but could not hear it speak.