

WHO WAS GINA?

Gina was a really important person here at **Leeds Playhouse**. She was a poet who worked with lots of young people in our city. She started writing poems when she was at primary school, just like you. Gina was a really kind person who worked hard to make the world a better place.

Gina helped lots of people find their talent as poets, and at **Leeds Playhouse** we want to continue to help young poets build their skills.



YOUR CHALLENGE

We want your class to have a go at being poets. We'd like your students to write poems which tell us all about them and the things they care about. The theme for our poetry competition this year is:

“Speak up, make your mark!”

We would like you to think about the difference you make to the place you live and the people who care about you. Your class can use these tasks to help you come up with a brilliant poem.



When you've written your poems, send them to us (you could record your class performing their poems if you like). Our panel of judges will choose a winner and runners-up, who will be invited to come and perform their poems on stage here at **Leeds Playhouse**.

You can use the tasks included in this resource pack to help you write your poems, or you and your teachers can come up with your own creative ways of writing poetry.

We can't wait to see all the brilliant poems you write!

TASK ONE

Here some examples of how Gina's family and friends described her:

"She had the absolute brightest and best smile."

"Gina was the glue in everything we did."

"Generous and loving with every fibre of her being"

"Gina was a shooting star!"

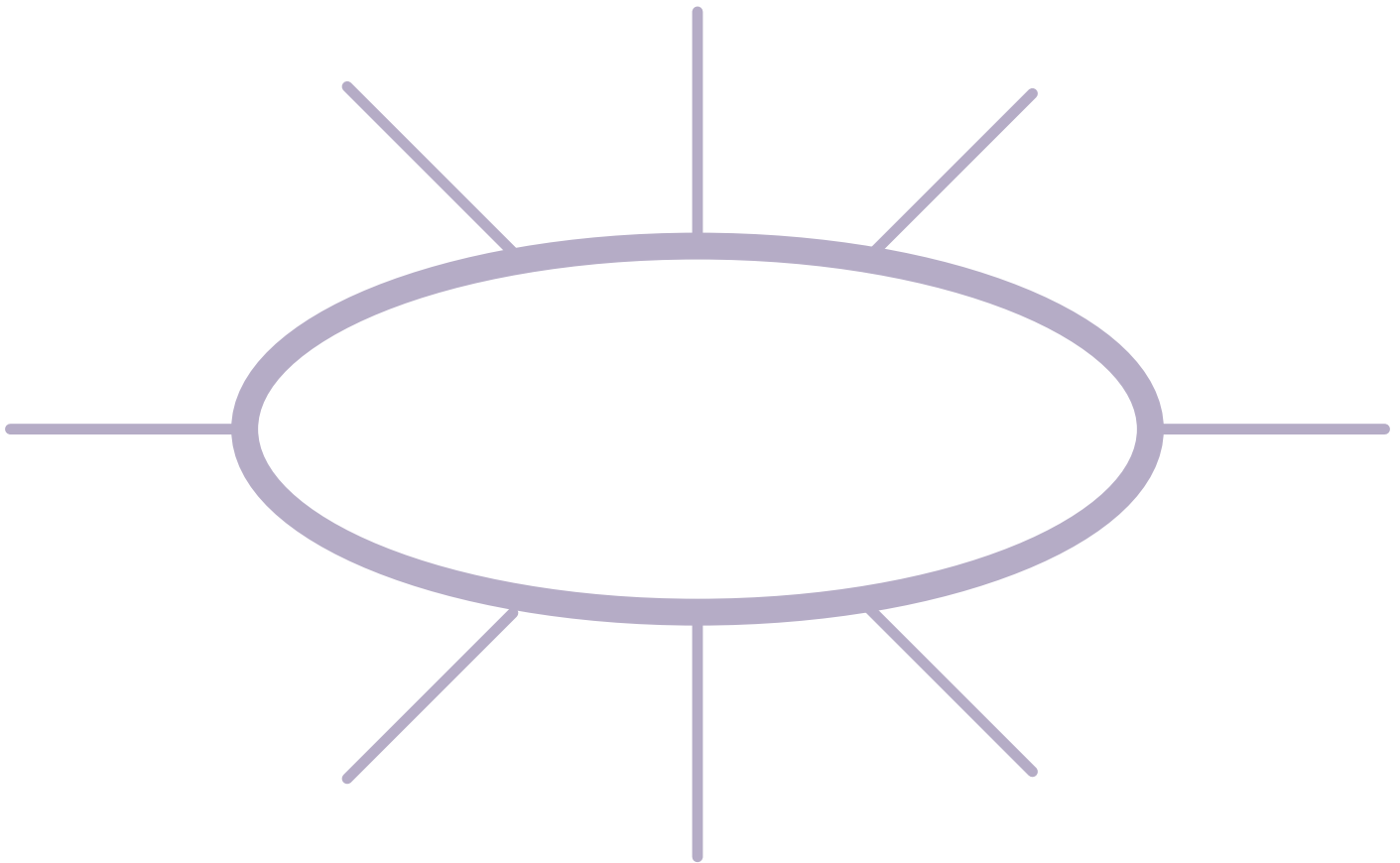
In the speech bubbles, write what you hope your family and friends would say to describe you:



TASK TWO

In the middle of this spider diagram, write your name. In the bubble around the outside, write down the names of the people, places, or things which are important to you. Around each person, place or thing

write down ways you have an impact on them – how do you make your mark on the people, places and things which are important to you?



POETRY TOOLKIT

Rhyming words:

Rhyming words are words that end with the same sounds.

Example: *cat, mat, rat, bat*

Similes:

A simile is a sentence where you describe something by saying it is like something else.

Example: *I am as strong as a horse.*

Expanded noun phrases:

A sentence which includes two adjectives (describing words).

Example: *Leeds is a busy, exciting city*

Alliteration:

Two or more words that begin with the same letter.

Example: *The calm, confident class cracked it.*

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

HOW TO ENTER

For Key Stage 1

You should create one poem with your entire class and submit this as your entry. You can send a written document of your poem, or you can audio/video record your pupils performing your poem and send that to us.

Submit your entry via this form:
[Gina Tavares Manuel Performance Poetry Competition – Entry Form – Fill out form](#)

For Key Stage 2/3/4

Each student should submit their own individual entry. They can send a written document of their poem, or they can audio or video record themselves performing it.

Students should submit their entry via this form: [Gina Tavares Manuel Performance Poetry Competition – Entry Form – Fill out form](#)

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN

We will select a winning entry and a second-place entry from each Key Stage. The winning class (in Key Stage 1) or students (Key Stage 2/3/4) will be invited to come and perform their poem as part of a celebration evening here at **Leeds Playhouse**. This will take place in the evening on **Friday 10 July 2026** (exact timings TBC).

The winning poems will also be shared on our website, and the names of the winning classes/students will be added to a mural here at **Leeds Playhouse**.

Winners/Runners up who are performing will also be invited to a performance skills workshop here at **Leeds Playhouse** on **Saturday 20 June 2026** to make sure they are ready to take to the stage with confidence.

If you have any more questions about the competition, please get in touch by emailing connect@leedsplayhouse.org.uk.

GOOD LUCK!