

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 joyful, caring person who worked hard to make the world a better place, and in her memory, we want to encourage others to do the same.

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 TWO

In poetry, writers use figurative language to impact their readers. In the table below are some types of figurative language,

definitions, and examples. Cut them out and match them up.

Smilie	Words at the end of a line which end in the same sound.	I felt joyful, I felt powerful, I felt brave.
Metaphor	Repeating the same word of phrase for effect.	The flames of the candle danced in the moonlight.
Assonance	A comparison where one thing is described as being something else.	I'm filled with anticipation; I can't wait for the celebration.
Personification	Words beginning with the same letter.	Her hands were as cold as ice.
Symbols	Giving human traits to something non-living.	I'm restless, on my quest asking questions to be the best I can be.
Rhyme	Words that sound like the thing they are describing.	The withered leaves fell from the trees.
Alliteration	A comparison using "like" or "as" .	There was a sea of people.
Onomatopoeia	Multiple words in the same line which have the same vowel sound.	I smoothly sailed towards a succinct solution.
Repetition	A person, place or thing which a more abstract idea of concept.	Crash, Bang, Smash!

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!