



**National
Literacy
Trust**

Change your story



Young Bristol Poets

Key Stage 1 Resource

National Writing Day

24 June 2026



Young Bristol Poets

Delivered by the National Literacy Trust in partnership with Bristol City Council, Young Bristol Poets is a city-wide programme that uses poetry, performance and cultural experiences to inspire children's writing and creativity.

We are inviting all Bristol schools (EYFS–KS3) to take part in **Young Bristol Poets**, launching on **National Writing Day (24 June 2026)** and continuing throughout the **Autumn term**.

This exciting city-wide writing campaign gives Bristol's young people the opportunity to create and share poems inspired by their city, exploring themes of home, identity and belonging. During the Autumn term, schools will receive a comprehensive **poetry resource pack** for EYFS, KS1, KS2 and KS3 teachers, designed to inspire creative writing.

Key Stage 1

Bursting with colour, sound and energy, Bristol is a haven for creativity and poetic inspiration! From the swoop of harbour gulls to the flash of skateboard wheels, from the bright colours of street art to the lively chatter of its residents, the city is full of sights, sounds and rhythms for children to explore.

This National Writing Day, invite your pupils to become sensory hunters and turn things they see and hear every day into poetry. Through rhythm, repetition and playful language, they will transform ordinary sights and sounds into poems.



Tune into Bristol: a city of sights and sounds

Theme: Sensory poetry

Outcome: Children create and perform a poem together inspired by the sights and sounds of Bristol

1. Tune in to Bristol

Begin with the question: *When we listen and look around, what can we see and what can we hear?*

Take the class outside to look and listen, noting down what they can see and hear. If not possible, display images or play video clips of Bristol and ask children to imagine:

- Walking down their street
- Playing in the park
- Travelling on a bus

Ask them, *'What can you see? What can you hear? Have you looked up in the sky and looked down on the ground too?'*

Children talk in pairs to tell each other what they can see and hear. What do they like best? What interests them? Why?

2. Circle share

Make a list on the board of all the things that the children have seen or heard – these can be from outside, things on their street or things they have seen in photos or video clips. For example: gulls, people, buses, harbour, bridge, skateboards and balloons – creating a class word bank.



3. Gathering ideas

Ask the children to create their own labelled illustrations based on the list. You could choose to do this on a large scale using a long roll of paper with each child labelling their drawing.

Ensure all children have an opportunity to contribute, using their own knowledge of Bristol to support their drawings, where appropriate. For example, they may choose to draw their street, the local park, school, shops, playground or a local landmark such as the harbour.

Gather together to discuss the objects and places included in the final illustration. Display on the working wall for children to refer to while writing.

4. Oral practice

In pairs, children use the class word bank and their illustrations to rehearse simple poetry lines aloud. Encourage them to combine what they can see or hear with a sound word or action, for example:

The speedy bus goes Vroooom!

The screeching gull swoops Swoooosh!

Invite children to perform their ideas to another pair before moving on to writing.



5. Choose your poetry writing challenge

Choose one of the following poetry writing challenges to try with your children. Create a class poem together first, modelling your thoughts and decisions as you go and including actions and sound words (onomatopoeia). Children can then work in pairs or independently to write their own poems.

Poetry challenge 1 (supported task):

Create a list poem – Bristol is...

Start each line with 'Bristol is...' adding a new phrase each time and ending with a sound word and action, e.g., *Bristol is a swooping gull. Swoooooosh!* (hold out arms and swoop).

Examples:

- *Bristol is happy voices in the park. Hahahaha!* (shaking and holding sides)
- *Bristol is a rumbling bus. Vroooooom!* (Drive the bus)

You could also explore alliteration (words that start with the same sound):

- *Bristol is my corner shop full of sticky sweets! Mmmmmm!* (rub tummy)

End with the line: *Bristol is my home.*

Give each child a strip of paper with 'Bristol is...' already written. Children complete each sentence with a noun (object or place from the list), adding an adjective to describe it and including a sound word or action. Collect the lines and add to a class poem display.



Poetry challenge 2 (stretch task):

Create an acrostic poem – My Bristol

Create an acrostic poem using the letters in Bristol to start each line.

Use places they know well, such as their street, local park, school or favourite places in Bristol, or use the class word bank to support them:

For example:

Buses rumbling down the road

Racing skateboards on College Green

In the sky, the Balloon Fiesta floats by

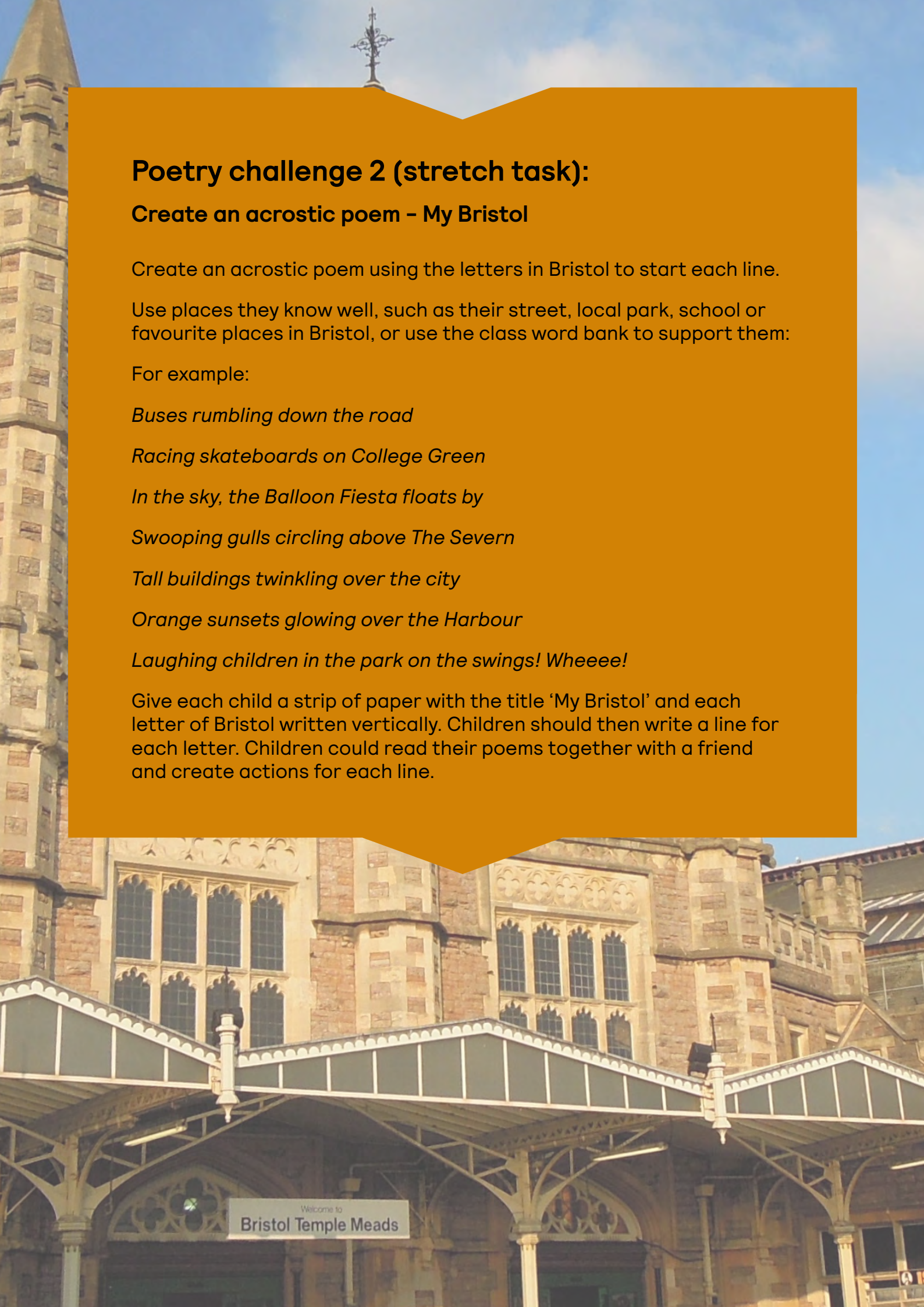
Swooping gulls circling above The Severn

Tall buildings twinkling over the city

Orange sunsets glowing over the Harbour

Laughing children in the park on the swings! Wheeee!

Give each child a strip of paper with the title 'My Bristol' and each letter of Bristol written vertically. Children should then write a line for each letter. Children could read their poems together with a friend and create actions for each line.



Follow-up activities

Performance is a key element to enjoying poetry, especially for young children. Give them time to practise saying their poems aloud, adding in actions. Why not record your class reciting the class poem or perform it in an assembly?

Create a Poetry Corner to display poems alongside children's drawings and images of Bristol, to celebrate their work.

Children could also make a mini-book of the class poem with a line on each page and an illustration, to take home and share with their family.



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National Literacy Trust

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About the National Literacy Trust

Literacy changes everything. It opens the door to the life you want. It's the key to knowledge, confidence and inspiration. It's better results at school, and better jobs. If you grow up without the tools to communicate, without books to read or opportunities to write, it's harder to get where you want to go.

We're a charity helping people overcome these challenges and change their life chances through the power of words – reading, writing, speaking and listening. From first words, through school days to training, jobs and beyond.

Together, we're helping people change their stories.

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