

**SUGGESTED POEMS for IRISH BOARD GRADE EXAMINATIONS  
(Chosen by Deirdre Galassi, FTCL and Finola Ryan FIBSD - September 2011)**

**PRELIMINARY GRADE ONE (Age 4- 6)**

**BOYS:**

'The Dustman' by Clive Sansom  
'Teddy Bear' by L.H. Allen  
'The Small Brown Bear' by Michael Baldwin

**GIRLS:**

'The Furry Home' by J.M. Westrup  
'The Proud Cat' - Author unknown  
'A Greeting' by Rose Fyleman  
'Mice' by Eleanor Farjeon

**PRELIMINARY GRADE TWO (5 - 7)**

**BOYS:**

'Double-barreled Ding-Dong-Bat' by Dennis Lee  
'Bubble Gum' by Nina Payne

**GIRLS:**

'The Magic Word' by Martin Gardener  
'The Brave Mouse' by Irene Rawnsley  
'Things I like' by Marjorie H. Greenfield

**GRADE ONE (6 - 8)**

**BOYS:**

'Hey, Bug!' by Lillian Moore  
'The Wrong Start' by Marchette Chute

**GIRLS:**

'Stories' by John D. Sheridan  
'At the Park' by Tony Bradman  
'Sleepy Town' by Marjory Royce

## **GRADE TWO (6 - 9)**

### **BOYS:**

'The Clown' by Dorothy Aldis

'Bird Talk' by Aileen Fisher

### **GIRLS:**

'Waking Up' by Mary Wilsher

'A-Tish-OO' by Charlotte Droit Cole

## **GRADE THREE (7 - 10)**

### **BOYS:**

'The Brown Bear' by John Foster

'School' by Michelle Magorian

'Missing' by A.A. Milne

### **GIRLS:**

'Night-Ride' by Celia Warren

'Flamingo' by Eleanor Farjeon

## **GRADE FOUR (9 - 11)**

### **BOYS:**

'Mother doesn't want a Dog' by Judith Voirst

'Motor Cars' by John D. Sheridan

'Painting' by Irene Rawnsley

### **GIRLS:**

'The Fairy House' by Rose Fyleaman

'The Midnight Tea Party' by Edith Blyton

'The Reason I like Chocolate' by Nikki Giovanni

## **GRADE FIVE (10 - 12)**

### **BOYS:**

'Space-Shuttle' by Judith Nicholls

'Be Glad your Nose is on your Face' by Jack Prelutsky

'Windy Nights' by Robert Louis Stevenson

### **GIRLS:**

'The Sycamore Tree' by Jonathan Always

'I Don't Want to go to Bed' by Mark Burgess

'Colourful Moods' by Georgie Adams

'Fairies' by Rose Fyleman

## **GRADE SIX (11 - 13) (LYRIC POEM)**

### **BOYS:**

'The College of Surgeons' by James Stephens

'The White Window' by James Stephens

### **GIRLS:**

'A Little Bird's Song' by Margaret Rose

'Spring Song' by John D. Sheridan

'The Snow Flake' by Walter de la Mare

## **GRADE SEVEN (12-14)**

### **BOYS:**

'My Dog he is an Ugly Dog' by Jack Prelutsky

'Watch your French' by Kim Wright

'Rhinos Purple, Hippo Green' by Michael Patrick Hearn

### **GIRLS:**

'Something told the Wild Geese' by Rachel Field

'Joan who hates Parties' by John Walsh

'A Little Mistake' by Anna M. Pratt

## **GRADE EIGHT (13 - 15)**

### **BOYS:**

'Henry King who chewed bits of String' by Hilaire Belloc

'One that got away' by Julie Holder

'Greedy Dog' by James Hurley

### **GIRLS:**

'The Donkey' by G. K. Chesterton

'The Titanic' by Gillian Clarke

'Rainy Nights' by Irene Thompson

## **GRADE NINE (14 -16) PROSE**

### **IDEAS for Prose selection:**

An extract from 'First Confession' in Frank O'Connor's "My Oedipus Complex and other stories".

An extract from any of the stories in "The Canterville Ghost", 'The Happy Prince' and other stories" by Oscar Wilde.

An extract from "Home Before Night" by Hugh Leonard.

It is a good idea to try to find an amusing Prose piece, as this will leave you with the option of a more dramatic poem or drama selection.

## **GRADE TEN (15 -17) RECITAL-**

(For guidance you can consult "Recitals and Prose selections" available at [www.dramabooks.ie](http://www.dramabooks.ie))

Remember that in a Recital one should only perform a few lines from a Poem, Drama and Prose selection. The linking script can also be the Prose selection.

## **GRADE ELEVEN: (16 - 18) SONNET or MODERN Poem**

### **BOYS: SONNET**

'On first looking into Chapman's Homer' by John Keats

'Remember' by Christina Rossetti

'Evening on Calais Beach' by William Wordsworth

### **GIRLS: SONNET**

'Voices' by Louis Untermeyer

'If Thou Must Love Me' by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

'On Westminster Bridge' by William Wordsworth

### **BOYS: MODERN Poem**

'Sea' by Brendan Kennelly

'Before the Beginning' by Gareth Owen

'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare

### **GIRLS: MODERN Poem**

'A Farewell' by A.R.D. Fairburn

'Figure in a Seascape' by Alan Bold

'The Sounds in the Evening' by Eleanor Farjeon

## **GRADE TWELVE: (16 -18)**

### **BOYS:**

'A Man I Knew' by Brendan Kennelly

'Circus Lion Gives Evidence' by John Agard

'The Song of Wandering Aengus' by W. B. Yeats

### **GIRLS:**

'The Shell' by James Stephens (Note word Straightway NOT Straightaway)

'Falling Asleep' by Siegfried Sassoon

'The Lizard' by Lydia Pender

## **PROFICIENCY (17 - 20)**

### **BOYS:**

'The Night Marlowe Died' by Patricia Beer

'Mirror in February' by Thomas Kinsella

### **GIRLS:**

'In Merrion Square' by Seamus O'Sullivan

'Chaos on the Catwalk' by Brian Lee