



# **New Era Academy Syllabus 2023- 2026**

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**Performance Exams**

**Verse Speaking Syllabus Extract**

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# PERFORMANCE EXAMS

## Verse Speaking

- Poems for this syllabus are free choice.
- Suggestions from either the anthology below or from the Public Domain can be used for poetry.
- Suggested poems can be found in guidance.
- Please ensure that own choice reflects the expected standard for each level.

**Resource:** A First Poetry Book by Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan

### General Objectives

This Solo Verse Speaking Syllabus seeks to offer Learners the opportunity to:

- Develop the art of speaking verse
- Develop clear speech
- Develop imagination and creativity
- Increase self-confidence
- Promote self-enrichment
- Stimulate research skills
- Instil a love of poetry
- Understand the diverse forms of poetry
- Specialise in the serious performance and art of verse speaking

### Guidelines for Solo Verse Speaking Learners

- Learners should be at least 11 years old.
- All selections in these examinations must be spoken from memory.
- Each grade must be prepared as a short continuous recital and Learners should, therefore begin with a short introduction and provide linking narrative.

## Verse Speaking: Entry Level

*Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 7 minutes*

### Preliminary Grade (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

**Learners should:**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak a poem of the Learner's choice        | 45 |
| 2. Speak a second poem of the Learner's choice | 45 |
| 3. Choice of theme, introduction, and links    | 10 |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

### Transition Grade (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

**Learners should:**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak a poem of the Learner's choice        | 45 |
| 2. Speak a second poem of the Learner's choice | 45 |
| 3. Choice of theme, introduction, and links    | 10 |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

## Verse Speaking: Level 1 Foundation

*Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 7 minutes*

### Grade 1 (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

**Learners should:**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak a poem of the Learner's choice       | 45 |
| 2. Speak a second poem of the Learners choice | 45 |
| 3. Choice of theme, introduction, and links   | 10 |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

### Grade 2 (10 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

**Learners should:**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak a poem of the Learner's choice       | 45 |
| 2. Speak a second poem of the Learners choice | 45 |
| 3. Choice of theme, introduction, and links   | 10 |

**Total Marks Awarded 100**

**Grade 3 - Foundation Medal (15 Minutes)****Marks Awarded***Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 10 minutes***Learners should:**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Speak a poem of the Learner's choice        | 30 |
| 2. Speak a second poem of the Learners choice  | 30 |
| 3. Speak a third poem of the Learner's choice. | 30 |
| 4. Choice of theme, introduction, and links    | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Verse Speaking: Level 2 Intermediate***Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 10 minutes***Grade 4 (15 Minutes)****Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak a poem written in 20 <sup>th</sup> Century | 30 |
| 2. Speak a sonnet written after 1950.               | 30 |
| 3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.          | 30 |
| 4. Choice of theme, introduction, and links         | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Grade 5 (15 Minutes)****Marks Awarded****Learners should:**

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Speak an extract of their own selection from a narrative poem:<br>(Minimum 18 lines) | 30 |
| 2. Speak a poem by a 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Poet.                                     | 30 |
| 3. Speak a short poem of their own choice.  | 30 |
| 4. Choice of theme, introduction, and links   | 10 |

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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## Verse Speaking: Level 3 Advanced

*Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 15 minutes*

### Grade 6 - Bronze Medal (20 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

**Learners should present a short recital to include the following poems:**

1. A War Poem from any Century	30
2. A poem of the Learner's choice	30
3. A second poem of the Learner's choice	30
4. Choice of theme, introduction, and links	10

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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### Grade 7 - Silver Medal - (20 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

**Learners should present a short recital of their own choice including 3 styles of poetry to include the following:**

1. Romantic Era	30
2. A poem of the Learner's choice in a different style and era from section 1.	30
3. A poem of the Learner's choice in a different style and era from section 1 and 2	30
4. Choice of theme, introduction, and links	10

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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### Grade 8 - Gold Medal (25 Minutes)

**Marks Awarded**

*Time – including introductions and linking narrative must not exceed 20 minutes*

**Learners should:**

Present a varied programme of 4 poems on a chosen theme of their own choice to include:

1. One Shakespearean poem	20
2. A poem of the Learner's choice in a different style and era from section 1	20
3. A poem of the Learner's choice in a different style and era from section 1 and 2.	20
4. One sonnet	20
5. Choice of theme, introduction, and links	20

<b>Total Marks Awarded</b>	<b>100</b>
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## Verse Speaking: Duologues

### General Objectives

The Duologue section of this Syllabus provides Learners with the opportunity to:

- Work with a partner in equally weighted roles
- Explore different texts
- Increase confidence
- Understand a sense of dependency

### Guidelines for Recital Duologue Learners

- Learners may enter for the Verse Speaking examinations specified above in Duologue form up to and including Grade 8.
- The criteria for marking Duologues are the same as that for the Solo Grades

## Guidance for Poetry and Prose

*For Speech & Drama, Reading, Spoken English, EAL and Verse Speaking*

### Entry Level Poems – Age 5+

**See Anthology: A First Poetry Book by Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan & Public Domain**

- Anything That's Broken - Bernard Young – p70
- Kitten – Jill Townsend – p145
- My Face Says it All – Phillip Waddell p26
- Apple – James Carter – p48
- Where Am I – Mike Barfield – p43
- Gran's Old Diary – Wes Magee p 29
- My Dad – Peter Dixon – p28
- Hello – Barry Buckingham p188
- Rhubarb Ted – Ann O'Connor PD
- Snowball – Shel Silverstein PD
- The Crocodile – Lewis Carroll PD
- Snowball - Shel Silverstein PD
- How not to have to Dry the Dishes – Shel Silverstein PD

## Level 1 – Age 7-12 – Grade 1 - 3

### See Anthology: A First Poetry Book by Pie Corbett and Gaby Morgan & Public Domain

- Space Rocket – Richard Caley – p227
- I Did Not Eat the Goldfish – Roger Stevens – p138
- Jealousy – John Mole p38
- The Tiger - Sue Hardy Dawson - p288
- Sounds of School - Michaela Morgan - p194
- Shells and Stones - Eric Finley - p249
- We Share the Air - Kevin McCann - p284
- Boring Mr Grimble - Clare Bevan - p162
- Imagine the World - Moyra Andrew – p41
- Santa in Zooland p 128
- It's a Puzzle – Allan Ahlberg PD
- When Daddy fell into the Pond – Alfred Noyes PD

## Level 1 Authors

- Dick King Smith
- Roald Dahl
- David Walliams
- Cressida Cowell
- Varjak Paw
- Jill Tomlinson
- Jill Murphy
- Julia Donaldson
- Michael Morpurgo
- Eoin Colfer
- Jacqueline Wilson

## Level 2 - Age 13 – 15 – Grades 4 and 5

*All Poems are **free choice** but suggestions from the public domain can be found within this guidance pack.*

## Level 2 Poetry

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry

- The Listeners by Walter de La Mare
- The Gresford Disaster by Anon
- Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost
- The Lockless Door by Robert Frost
- A Road Not Taken by Robert Frost
- My Typewriter by Edward Dyson
- Sea Fever by John Masefield
- Mistletoe by Walter de La Mare
- The Things We Dare Not Tell by Henry Lawson
- The Call by John Frederick Freeman
- At The Theatre: To The Lady Behind Me
- To E.T by Robert Frost
- Mid-Term Break by Seamus Heaney

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century Poetry

- The Star by Sara Teasdale
- If by Rudyard Kipling – verses 1,2 and 4
- Hope is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson
- The Tyger by William Blake
- The Lake Isle of Innisfree by W B Yeats
- A Dream within a Dream by E A Poe
- Break, Break, Break, by Alfred Lord Tennyson
- I Travelled among Unknown Men – William Wordsworth
- The Welcome by Thomas Osborne Davis
- Water of Gold by Henry Austin Dobson

## Level 2 Authors

- Philip Pullman
- Anthony Horowitz
- Patrick Ness
- Malorie Blackman
- RJ Palacio
- Suzanne Collins
- John Green

## Level 3 – Age 15 – 17 – Grades 6 and 8

### Level 3 Poetry

#### War Poets

- Dreamers by Siegfried Sassoon
- An Irishman Foresees his Death by WB Yeats
- Anthem for Doomed Youth by Wilfred Owen
- Rupert Brooke
- Robert Graves

#### Award Winning Poets

- Langston Hughes
- Still I Rise by Maya Angelou
- Caged Bird by Maya Angelou
- Blackberrying by Sylvia Plath
- You're by Sylvia Plath
- Age Appropriate by Phillip Schultz
- Greed by Philip Schultz
- The Evening Darkens Over by Robert Bridges
- Warming Her Pearls by Carol Ann Duffy
- Camera Obscura by Simon Armitage

### Sonnets from The Elizabethan or Jacobean Era (1500 - 1625)

- Sonnet 55 by William Shakespeare
- My heart I gave thee, not to do it pain by Sir Thomas Wyatt
- Death, be not proud by John Donne

### Sonnets from The Romantic Era (1780 – 1830)

- Lift not the painted veil which those who live by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Bright Star by John Keats

### Contemporary Sonnets – (1900 – 2020)

- I shall go back again to the bleak shore by Edna St Vincent Millay
- Glasgow Sonnet i by Edwin Morgan
- Acquainted with the Night by Robert Frost
- Love Sonnet XI by Pablo Neruda

### Level 3 Authors

- Laurie Lee
- George R R Martin
- Iris Murdoch
- Harper Lee
- F Scott Fitzgerald
- Graham Green
- Joanna Trollope
- John Steinbeck



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