

Teacher: Now could everyone sit down, please. I've got an important announcement to make.

As you know, the national school poetry competitions that we usually enter are starting soon. All the competitions are named after animals. One of the competitions, called the Dolphin Prize, is for 15- to 19-year olds. So if you have older brothers and sisters in the school, get them to enter that one. But the one for people of your age, the Tiger Prize, is the one we'd like you to go for. We hope lots of you will try.

As some of you may remember, the theme for last year was 'Weather'. This time the judges have chosen the topic 'Change', and that could cover a lot of things, couldn't it? A new school, a different house, for example

So, if you want to enter the competition but you're stuck for ideas, have a look at last year's winner on the competition website. You may know the girl who wrote it - Maria Mason from our school with her poem called 'Trains'. She also got a little book of her poems, called 'Travelling' published as part of her prize. Maria won some money for the school, too - one thousand euros! And this time that's gone up to two thousand, which is very generous.

If anyone in the school wins, we'd like to use the money for the library, as we feel that's the right way for it to be spent. Maria's prize money last year was spent on the new computer software.

Now, you may feel you'd like to enter the competition but need some more help. If that's the case, you can look at the website. The head of English, Mr. Winters, has said you will find it really useful.