



**POEMS FOR
THE
PLANET**

Valuing Nature's Treasures

A National Poetry Day resource from Greenpeace

Key Stage 1-2

#NationalPoetryDay
www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

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from Greenpeace

Nature Trail

At the bottom of my garden
There's a hedgehog and a frog
And a lot of creepy-crawlies
Living underneath a log,
There's a baby daddy long legs
And an easy-going snail
And a family of woodlice,
All are on my nature trail.

There are caterpillars waiting
For their time to come to fly,
There are worms turning the earth over
As ladybirds fly by,
Birds will visit, cats will visit
But they always chose their time
And I've even seen a fox visit
This wild garden of mine.

Squirrels come to nick my nuts
And busy bees come buzzing
And when the night time comes
Sometimes some dragonflies come humming,
My garden mice are very shy
And I've seen bats that growl
And in my garden I have seen
A very wise old owl.

My garden is a lively place
There's always something happening,
There's this constant search for food
And then there's all that flowering,
When you have a garden
You will never be alone
And I believe we all deserve
A garden of our own.

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Read and talk about the poem:

Read the poem out loud.

Think about the title of the poem:
'Nature Trail'

Think about the garden the poem
references. Re-read the poem again
and visualise the garden in your mind
as you read the words?

*What do you think is it about? How does it
make you feel? What makes you feel this way?*

*Do you know what a Nature Trail is? How
does the poem lead you on a journey, like
a Nature Trail? Have you been on a Nature
Trail before? Where did you go? Was it your
own garden, like in the poem, or a local park
or somewhere else? What did you see?*

*What features does it have? What does it
offer to the different animals? What features
of this habitat make it a space for the frog,
squirrel, bees or owl to thrive? Are their
needs similar or different? Would their needs
be equally met in a car park or other paved
or built upon space? Why not?*



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Reflect and discuss:

Think about the green spaces local to you.

Visit a local green space, such as those mentioned above, where you can see plants and wildlife. Take cameras, magnifying glasses, simple spotter guides, sketchbooks and drawing pencils so you can spend time exploring and recording elements of nature in a variety of ways. Come back to talk about what you saw and how it felt to be in the space.

Where are they? Do you have a school garden, planting area or wildlife patch? Is there a community garden, park or woodland nearby? What plants and wildlife might be found there?

What plants, trees and creatures did you see? Were any the same as the ones in the poem? What did you think about when you were in the space? How did you feel while you were there?



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Reflect and discuss:

Re-read the final lines of the poem:

When you have a garden
You will never be alone
And I believe we all deserve
A garden of our own.

*What do you think the poet means by this?
Why do you think green spaces like the one
we visited are important? What do they
do for people? For wildlife? For the wider
environment?*

Read more about the importance of
green spaces here:

[https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/
urban-greening-examples/](https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/urban-greening-examples/)



An urban 'meadow' in raised flower beds on the Barbican
Estate in London. © Tracy Packer / Getty Images



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Write your own poem:

Come back together to think about how it felt to be in the green space and why places like this are important for people, wildlife and the wider environment.

Think back to the original poem.

Take a piece of paper and a pen and remind yourself of the small details of all the plants and wildlife you saw in the space.

If you were to write a poem to engage a reader with the importance of green spaces in the local environment, what would you want to say and why?

How does Benjamin Zephaniah make us focus in on the smaller details of the space, before leaving us with the larger thought of how everyone should be able to visit green spaces?

What thought would you want to leave your reader with, so that they realise how important green spaces like this are for people, wildlife and the environment?



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Write your own poem:

When you have some ideas written down, see if you can use these to write your own poem.

If you struggle to get going, think back what Benjamin Zephaniah did in the original poem and start by describing things you saw before delivering a bigger message about the importance of green spaces.

Consider how you'll arrange your poem on the page, where you'll break lines, whether you'll have multiple verses or whether it will rhyme or be in free verse.

What's most important is that it engages the reader in the delights of the natural world and leaves them with a sense of how important green spaces are.

Read your poem when it's finished and check that it does both these things effectively.



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Share your poem:

Share your poem with your family or a friend.

What does it make them think about? How does it make them feel?

Explore the environment further:

- Explore Greenpeace Youth Resources for 7-18 year olds: greenpeace.org.uk/all-resources/education-resources/
- Invite a Greenpeace Speaker for a free talk or workshop: greenpeace.org.uk/greenpeace-speakers



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