Congratulations to those of you who have written poems as part of this year’s National Poetry Day 25th anniversary celebrations! To have written a piece of work that helps you express your thoughts and feelings is a wonderful skill, a great achievement, and you should all feel extremely proud. In such an important year for the organisation, we must remember that reading a good poem, as well as writing one, also helps us connect with our creativity; so make sure you read as much as possible in order to develop your own imaginations.

While admiring other people’s poetry, it’s also important to remember that any original poems you have written yourself automatically belong to you. You have come up with the words, put thought into how they have been put together and what has been produced is an expression of you. These poems – and your other original creations – are protected by copyright, which means nobody else can use them without your permission (with a few exceptions) and you decide what happens with them. It is a means to protect the products of your creativity, so you can be free to produce more.

Poetry is a great way to share your feelings and to learn more about the feelings of others. That is essentially what poetry is; a recording of all the things that make up people’s lives. Which is why we should all continue to read and write as much poetry as we can, so we can learn more about the world and other people’s experiences while we share our own.