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# We Are Writers!

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## An introduction by Julia Donaldson, Children's Laureate 2011-2013

When I was five, my father gave me *The Book of a Thousand Poems* for my birthday. I learnt a lot of the poems (though not all thousand!) off by heart and I used to love reciting them.

Reading aloud is something I still do a lot. I find it's really helpful when I've written something to read it to someone in my family or to get them to read it to me. If you've written a poem, you will hear how the words and the rhythms sound. If it's a story, you will sense if it's quite as funny or exciting as you wanted it to be.

With me, reading aloud led to a love of acting and performing. I used to make up shows for my friends and family to act, and I still enjoy writing plays. Now that I'm the Children's Laureate, one of my main projects is to get young people acting out plays and stories.

Maybe you would like to have a go at writing your own play. It's great fun as you don't have to include a lot of description and can concentrate instead on what each character says.

Congratulations on having your writing in print. Now that you are all writers I hope that you will all become actors too!



We Are Writers – Turning pupils into published authors.