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An introduction by Julia Donaldson

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. One of my main projects now 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.