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## Scottish Poetry Library CPD

### Making the Most of National Poetry Day *stars/staurs/sterns* with Liz Niven

**National Poetry Day 2012** is Thursday 4 October and this year's theme is 'stars'. Our sessions offer a unique opportunity to meet and work with inspiring writer, poet and teacher Liz Niven, and to collect our heavenly selection of starry poems for children and young people.

All our CPD courses are designed to refresh, inspire and enthuse teachers with practical and enjoyable classroom-ready exercises linked to our eight themed poetry postcards – available to you on the day. Dedicated sessions for Early Years, Primary and Secondary staff.

Come and star-gaze with us in September: wine (sparkling, of course) and nibbles will be served.

#### Who for?

All teachers, literacy co-ordinators, librarians, learning & classroom assts

#### Course Aims

We aim to promote poetry as a pleasure, an art form and a powerful learning medium. Our courses are designed to

- ☆ enhance your resource bank of Scottish poetry, as promoted in Education Scotland's *Studying Scotland* initiative?
- ☆ provide tips for getting to grips with poetry-writing techniques
- ☆ help increase your confidence in writing poetry and teach with greater freedom and creativity
- ☆ present a range of forms and methods for inspiring new writing and helping your pupils become poetry stars

#### When?

There are three sessions available:

- ☆ **Early Years – P5**      Monday **10 September** 16.15-18.15
- ☆ **P6-S2**                      Tuesday **11 September** 16.15-18.15
- ☆ **S3-6**                              Wednesday **12 September** 16.15-18.15

**NB** The S3-6 session on 12 September will focus particularly on the needs of students and teachers writing/teaching poetry for folio. Liz will work practically with participants to offer assistance in:

- encouraging and building students' confidence in writing poetry
- 'teaching' poetry-writing more creatively and with greater confidence
- exploring a range of methods for inspiring and supporting poetry writing
- helping students explore identify ideas, form, and achieve originality and authenticity
- supporting and developing works-in-progress; crafting, editing and polishing
- creating an effective critical vocabulary and offering constructive criticism

### **Where?**

All sessions take place at SPL, Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh, EH8 8DT

### **Group size?**

Max 22

### **How much?**

£20 per head Additional staff member from the same school @ £10  
Participants/schools will be invoiced retrospectively

### **How to book?**

Email Lorna Irvine at SPL on [education@spl.org.uk](mailto:education@spl.org.uk)

### **What they said...**

About our 2011 CPD series, **Poetry Games-**

### **Primary teachers**

- *It was so easy and pleasurable to generate ideas – support each other – in the small group. I'm eager to get back to the class and try out some of these ideas*
- *Loved the clear ways to work with P2 and poetry; they only need work with a few words to make their own*
- *I've got a greater appreciation and awareness of how to use poetry as stimulus in project work; I can see great cross-curricular links with poetry at the heart*
- *I feel more able to start building up poetry resources in school*

### **Secondary teachers**

- *I've just written my first poem in 15 years! It was great having the chance to actually work through the whole process of producing our own poems; it really highlighted the teaching and learning challenges involved*
- *My expectations of what I'd learn were surpassed; I've discovered a whole new way of engaging pupils*

- *I'm straight off to enthuse my English Dept for NPD activities – and revamp Higher poetry writing!*
- *I now have a greater awareness of (and a personal need to be) less constrained by textual analysis. This evening helped me let go of worrying about what examiners are looking for and focus on just getting them to be joyfully creative (Secondary English teacher)*
- *I'll be seeking out new poetry rather than sticking to the same old lessons I've been using for years.*

**Remember!** Our NPD postcard corresponding lesson plans and posters are available on our website from early August 2012.