



Poetry Competition

Children's Shortlist & Winners 2025



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Children's Shortlist & Winners

(aged 5-12)

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Children's Shortlist & Winners

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Hallows Eve by Milo Melrose

Goblins and ghouls ruling the night
Cackles and screams will give you a fright
Witches and zombies invading the town
Beware of your brother, the killer clown.

Little footsteps and doorbells ringing
Children's voices wildly singing
Sticky fingers and paint in your hair
Do you keep candy or do you share?

All the costumes that your parents made
Photos taken because memories fade
Hidden tricks up a child's sleeve
Do you dare to go out on hallow's eve?



Celebrating (A Reverse Poem) by Paris Yiannoutsos

Being happy is damaging
you'll never hear me say
There are things to be proud of
I know deep down
Honor has no purpose
And that
There's no such thing as hope
I will never think
Positive memories are worth it
Because
Joy is unpleasant
I don't understand how
Celebrating lifts you up
Since
Ignoring achievements is best
I can't see a way as to how
Self-worth is crucial
And I love how
Expecting the worst feels so strong
And I despise the fact that
Motivation brings you bliss
Furthermore,
Celebrating is arrogance
Nobody will ever convince me that
For every cloud there's a silver lining
And
I deserve good thoughts
Because
Memories are pointless souvenirs
It is not alright to assume
Celebrating is okay



Everyday Celebrations by Alisa Khrypko

There are always things to celebrate...

First time standing up,

Drinking from a cup.

Getting a medal,

Learning to pedal.

Hugging your Mum when it's not Mother's Day,

Making a bully go away.

Reaching the top of a very steep hill

Or being brave to swallow a disgusting pill.

If you are kind, and strong, and brave,

You can have a celebration every day.

What Makes Me, ME!

by Mia Skaria

All day with Parents,
Along with grandparents,
That's what makes me, Me.

God in the centre,
He is my Mentor,
That's what makes me, Me.

Stories of yonder,
Things I like to ponder,
That's what makes me, Me.

Two countries I come from,
India and New Zealand,
That's what makes me, Me.

Jumping and running,
Playing and swimming, T
hat's what makes me, Me.

My clothes and my culture,
My hair and my color,
That's what makes me, Me.

The food I like to eat,
The friends I meet,
That's what makes me, Me.

My beliefs and my ambitions,
My family and my traditions,
That's what makes me, Me.

Celebration of Flight

by Sophia Le

Birds soar
Across the bright blue
Flying fast
Gliding on the currents
Free

Planes lift
Defying gravity
Buzzing, flashing
A cloud kingdom
In the heights, where humans
Cannot go

Kids swing, screaming
In exhilaration
As they go up and up
Sweeping their feet across the sky

Burdens left behind
A swift retreat
As the ground grows fainter
Beneath our feet

Joy untainted
Adrenaline uncontainable

Freedom in the heights
A celebration of flight

Pōhutukawa, Tīramarama Mai **(Pōhutukawa, shine brightly for us)** by Pippi-Rose Waitere

Ko Pōhutukawa tēnei
He ataahua koe, a Pōhutukawa
He tāonga koe, a Pōhutukawa

He rerehua ō mate
Ka karanga ahau ki a koe
Tiakina ngā mātua o tōku Nanny
Tiakina te Māmā o tōku Poppy

He nui tōku aroha ki ōku tūpuna
Pōhutukawa, tīramarama mai

This is Pōhutukawa
You are beautiful, Pōhutukawa
You are a treasure, Pōhutukawa

The departed you hold are beautiful
I call out to you,
Look after the parents of my Nanny
Look after the mother of my Poppy

I have so much love for my ancestors
Pōhutukawa, shine brightly for us

Nature's Beauty

by Eve Pilcher

Nature celebrates

The green leaves dance, a gentle breeze
River flows, soft sounds
Peaks of sunlight, swaying trees
Nature's beauty, new life grows

Nature heals

I am certain
The cycle of life doesn't end—it grows
It starts new beginnings
The new growth is upon us all
The celebration of nature

What will it be?

When the shadows drift and fall
Or the rivers are dry and cracked
And the beauty washes away,
But still, I wonder.

Matariki Poem

by Aria Chatley

Beneath the brightest stars at night,
We gather with family and friends tonight
To remember, to share, to laugh and to care.
The stars above, the warmth below,
Remind us how our memories grow,
So let us live with hearts made bright,
And treasure joy on Matariki night.

Different Celebrations

by Ramona Robinson

Halloween is a time for a frightful scare

Christmas is a time to be happy and share

Easter is a time to hunt for eggs with friends

Matariki is when a new year starts and an old year ends

On birthdays we eat cake and be greedy

On Waitangi Day we honour the Treaty

Holidays are a time to bring us together

After all, holidays will be forever.

Waitī and Waita

by Olive Archer-Braddock

Waitī sparkles where the rivers flow,
With shimmering streams and the sun's warm glow.
She sings of lakes and gentle rain,
Of water moving around your feet again.
Waitā shines over the ocean blue,
With roaring waves and fish swimming through.
She watches the tides, both strong and fast,
And shares secrets with the ocean's past.
Together they brighten the sky and the land,
The water of life, a bond so grand.



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