

WELCOME TO THE ULTIMATE POETRY  
AND NUMBERS SHOWDOWN

**NN** National  
Numeracy  
Day

RAP & POETRY  
**SLAM**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**TIMES TABLES  
ROCK STARS**

A campaign by

**NN** National  
Numeracy  
Getting on with numbers



# CALLING ALL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



Get ready to ignite your creativity and rock the stage like never before!



## WHAT IS NATIONAL NUMERACY DAY?

It's a campaign from the charity National Numeracy and is the UK's only day dedicated to everyday maths. This year, we have teamed up with the mighty Times Tables Rock Stars for this fun activity!

## WHAT IS A RAP SLAM?

It's a way for poets to perform their poems before an audience. You can perform as an individual poet or a group.

## WHAT IS PERFORMANCE POETRY?

Performance poetry is about having fun with words and telling a story. It's about listening to others too. Performance poetry can be exciting, funny, sad, fast or furious.



WATCH SOME  
STUDENTS  
PERFORMING  
IN A RAP SLAM  
HERE!



# HARRY BAKER

Harry is a British spoken word artist, author and poet. He is a proud Ambassador for the charity National Numeracy. He has won the London and UK Slam Poetry Championships. In 2012, he won the World Slam Poetry Competition, becoming the youngest ever winner.

## WHAT A LEGEND!

HARRY'S 'A LOVE POEM FOR LONELY PRIME NUMBERS' HAS OVER TWO MILLION VIEWS. [CHECK IT OUT HERE!](#)

## TEACHER GUIDANCE

- Use our writing checklist and templates to help your students write their numbers-themed poems and raps!
- Use our resource bank for top tips and inspiration for your own rap and poetry slam.
- Invite your students to take to the stage to perform their number positive poems and raps as individual performers, small groups or as a whole class.
- Encourage students to dress up as rock stars to add a vibrant and thematic element to their performances.
- Use the feedback sheet provided to give positive feedback to each performer or group.
- Use this activity to promote and celebrate number confidence.
- Share your students' numbers-themed poems and raps using the hashtag #NationalNumeracyDay.



# RAP LIKE A ROCK STAR



National Numeracy, together with Times Tables Rock Stars invite you to take part in a Rap Slam to celebrate National Numeracy Day 2024!

We would like you to write and perform a poem all about you being a maths rock star! You can do it in groups or on your own!

It can be funny or serious; quiet or loud whatever you like. Think about how you feel about numbers and maths and how you use them at school, at home and when doing things that you enjoy like your hobbies and share your thoughts through your poem or rap.



## POEM EXAMPLE:

### I AM A MATHS ROCK STAR!

In an arena of numbers,  
I reign supreme,

A maths rock legend,  
in my prime extreme.

With times tables,  
I riff and roll,

Solving multiplications,  
heart and soul.





## HARRY'S TOP TIPS TO TRULY ROCK YOUR POETRY PERFORMANCE



- Practise reading the poem to an adult. Just like maths, sharing your problem with someone else can help you think it through.
- Engage with the audience and make sure you are looking at them and not the floor. It's important to feel confident about the things we're doing, whether it's feeling like we can tackle a maths question or performing a rap!
- Take a deep breath before you start and don't worry about being nervous, it shows you care. It's okay to feel nervous, anxious or worried. These are normal feelings and we can experience them when it comes to maths too.
- Take your time and speak clearly to give people the best possible chance to hear your wonderful words. Whether you're writing a poem or working with numbers, remember to take your time - you don't need to rush.
- Remember that everyone wants you to do well. If you need encouragement you can focus on a friendly face to cheer you on. Writing and performing poetry, just like maths, is a skill we can develop over time. Ability isn't fixed, it's all about feeling confident and believing in yourself.
- Experiment with voice and sound to reflect the ideas in the poem. Think about it like you would a maths problem - it's okay to try again, make mistakes and have another go if you need to.
- Think about what actions you need to put into the performance of the poem or rap. It might help to think about adding actions after you've written the words. Break it down into small, bite sized chunks - it works with maths and it'll work here too!
- Share how you feel about numbers and maths. Talking about how you feel about maths with other people is important as it helps us all feel better about numbers and more confident about using them in everyday life.
- Most importantly...HAVE FUN! Whether it's writing a poem, performing a rap or doing maths, remember that even if it feels scary at first, you can do it!

**WATCH HARRY'S TOP TIPS**





# RAP LIKE A ROCK STAR



## POETRY WRITING CHECKLIST CAN YOU INCLUDE?

- Alliteration (words that start with a repeating sound)
- Rhyme ('rock' and 'unlock', 'star' and 'bar' rhyme)
- Onomatopoeia (where a word makes the sound it represents: BANG!)
- Abstract Nouns (feelings or ideas)

SO GRAB YOUR PENCILS, UNLEASH YOUR IMAGINATION, AND GET READY TO RAP LIKE THE MATHS ROCK STAR YOU WERE BORN TO BE! LET'S ROCK THIS RAP SLAM AND CELEBRATE NATIONAL NUMERACY DAY IN STYLE!



## RESOURCES



### MATHS RAP SLAM POEM EXAMPLE



Harry Baker's A Love Poem for Lonely Prime Numbers

### TOP TIPS & SCHOOL RAP SLAMS



Watch this video for top tips, plus rap slam and class rap poem examples!

### POETRY WRITING TEMPLATES



Lined sheets to print out for the students to use

### FEEDBACK SHEETS



Feedback forms for all students

### CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION



Awesome certificate to present to all that took part





A large white rectangular area with ten horizontal lines for writing, set against a purple background.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b> /    /
<b>Does your poem include:</b>	<b>Tick</b>
Alliteration	
Rhyme	
Onomatopoeia	
Abstract Noun	
<b>When you performed your poem, did you:</b>	
Use actions	
Change your voice/use sounds	
Engage with the audience	
Share how you feel about numbers and maths	
Have fun!	
<b>Teacher comments:</b>	

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**N** National Numeracy Day

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



*This is to certify that*



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*Participated in the  
National Numeracy Day  
Rap and Poetry Slam*

  
**WELL DONE**  
*you were brilliant!*

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_



# SHARE YOUR RAP SLAMS



Take photos of your students performing their rap slams on social media using the hashtag

## #NATIONALNUMERACYDAY

We'd love to hear your poems and see how you got involved this National Numeracy Day.



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