



Lion King Joseph Woods

Born in Drogheda, Co. Louth, in 1966 and now living with his family in Zimbabwe. This poem deals with the concept of age, the unknown, wonder and inspiration between a child and their grandfather.

You've been watching the weather
in your grandad's face
as he sleeps armchaired
in the sitting room

and how the newspaper flopped
to his feet like a seagull
big with wings of newsprint.

Watching the weather in his face
is more interesting than The Lion King
and when he wakes from his snooze
he always looks like a spaceman

landed on some strange planet
but still manages a smile
when you ask him. *Grandad*
were you old before you were old?



I Opened A Book

Julia Donaldson

Julia Catherine Donaldson CBE is an English writer and playwright. She is best known for her popular rhyming stories for children, especially those illustrated by Axel Scheffler, which include *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*. This poem deals with the wonders of reading,

I opened a book and in I strode
Now nobody can find me.
I've left my chair, my house, my road,
My town and my world behind me.

I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,
I've swallowed the magic potion.
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king
And dived in a bottomless ocean.

I opened a book and made some friends.
I shared their tears and laughter
And followed their road with its bumps and bends
To the happily ever after.#

I finished my book and out I came.
The cloak can no longer hide me.
My chair and my house are just the same,
But I have a book inside me.



No Man is an Island

John Donne

John Donne (1572 – 1631) was an English poet, scholar and soldier. Donne is generally considered the most prominent member of the metaphysical poets, with his poems, including this one, often marked by the use of elaborate figurative languages and philosophical topics. In this poem, Donne explores the idea of the connectedness of people.

[Click to access an audio of the poem](#) courtesy of RedFrost Motivation

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main;

if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were;

any man's death diminishes me,
because I am involved in mankind.

And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.



Better Days

Dermot Kennedy

Dermot Joseph Kennedy is an Irish singer-songwriter. He is best known for his 2019 single "Outnumbered", his 2020 single "Giants" and the below single "Better days are coming". Dermot himself described the song as *"a song about patience. It's about believing in something brighter, and never losing sight of better days, no matter how hard things might get. In a time where so many people feel worried and exhausted, I [Dermot] would love for this song to remind even one person that things will improve."*

[Click here to access the music video](#) from Dermot Kennedy

Better days are comin'
If no one told you
I hate to hear you cryin'
Over the phone, dear
For seven years runnin'
You've been a soldier
But better days are comin'
Better days are comin' for you

So when the night feels like forever
(Mh-mh)
I'll remember what you said to me

I know you've been hurtin'
Waitin' on a train that just won't come
The rain, it ain't permanent
And soon, we'll be dancin' in the sun
We'll be dancin' in the sun
And we'll sing your song together
And we'll sing your song together

We never miss the flowers
Until the sun's down
We never count the hours
Until they're runnin' out
You're on the other side of the storm now
You should be so proud
And better days are comin'
Better days are comin' for you

So when the night feels like forever
(Mh-mh)
I'll remember what you said to me

I know you've been hurtin'
Waitin' on a train that just won't come
The rain, it ain't permanent
And soon, we'll be dancin' in the sun
We'll be dancin' in the sun
And we'll sing your song together
And we'll sing your song together

Your story's gonna change
Just wait for better days
You've seen too much of pain
Now, you don't even know
That your story's gonna change
Just wait for better days
I promise you, I won't let go

I know you've been hurtin'
Waitin' on a train that just won't come
The rain, it ain't permanent
And soon, we'll be dancin' in the sun
We'll be dancin' in the sun
And we'll sing your song together
And we'll sing your song together