



# National Poetry Day

In conjunction with Greenpeace



## Poetry Writing Competition

- Poems About the Planet
- Write about nature's beauty and protecting the planet for this year's competition with National Poetry Day. Enter your poem by 1 December for a chance to win.

# What is environmental poetry?

Distinct from nature poetry, environmental poetry explores the complicated connections between people and nature, often written by poets who are concerned about our impact on the natural world. Poets today are serving as witnesses to climate change while bringing attention to important environmental issues and advocating for preservation and conservation.

A photograph of a makeshift settlement, possibly a refugee camp, with several people standing near a large, light-colored tent structure. The ground is cluttered with debris and supplies. The sky is overcast with heavy, grey clouds. The overall tone is somber and documentary.

# The Green House Effect

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“The Green  
House  
Effect” by  
Carl Dennis

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQEg\\_g09Sng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cQEg_g09Sng)



A Vanishing World: the  
English countryside

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Philip Larkin's  
poem "Going,  
Going"



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# Listen to Larkin read his poem

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- Written in the 1970s about a vanishing idea of a romanticised England –with its ‘guildhalls’ and ‘carved choirs’ – ‘Going, Going’ laments the auctioning off of the English countryside to the highest bidder, with its title summoning, without quite being able to complete, the auctioneer’s cry: ‘Going, going, gone’. Soon, Larkin says, he fears that England will be nothing but ‘concrete and tyres’. You can listen to Larkin reading his poem [here](#).
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQkKr9jcNs>





Plastic Pollution: Goodbye,  
Goldeneye by May  
Swenson  
link:  
[https://www.elyricsworld.com/goodbye,\\_goldeneye\\_lyrics\\_may\\_swenson.html](https://www.elyricsworld.com/goodbye,_goldeneye_lyrics_may_swenson.html)



Saving the  
trees .....

# Gerald Manley Hopkins, “Binsey Poplars”

- In ‘Binsey Poplars’, Hopkins (1844-89) laments the felling of some beautiful aspen trees in Oxfordshire in 1879. The poem was not published until 1918, like so much of Gerard Manley Hopkins’s work. Shortly afterwards, the poplars were replanted. In 2004 they were felled again, only to be replanted. As the Bodleian website notes, ‘The poem formed part of the successful campaign to replant the trees.’
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHjEmSVJ2IY>



Climate change:  
Some poets have  
written very  
powerfully about  
climate change

# “Ovid on Climate Change” by Eliza Griswold

Bastard, the other boys teased him, till Phaethon unleashed the steeds of Armageddon. He couldn't hold their reins. Driving the sun too close to earth, the boy withered rivers, torched Eucalyptus groves, until the hills burst into flame, and the people's blood boiled through the skin. Ethiopia, land of burnt faces. In a boy's rage for a name, the myth of race begins.

