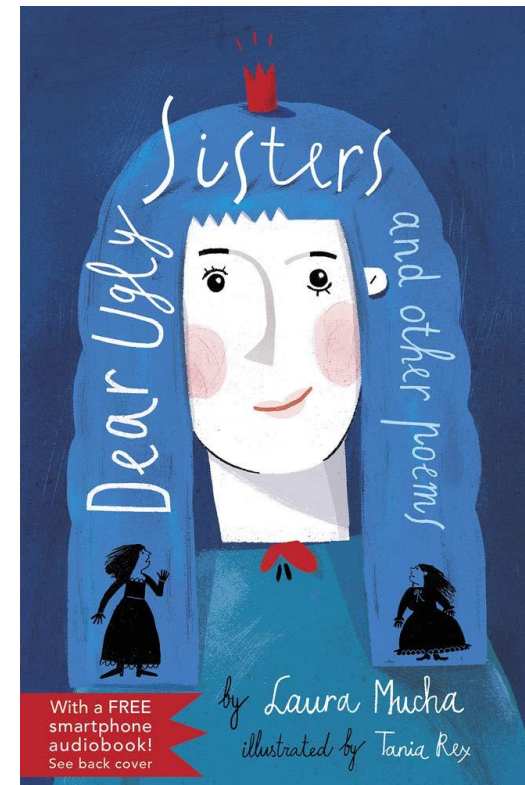


# Winner of the NSTBA 2021 Poetry Category

Ideas for using 'Dear Ugly Sisters and other poems' by Laura Mucha, illustrated by Tania Rex in the classroom.



An excellent example of a letter poem, 'Dear Ugly Sisters' is written from Cinderella to her sisters as she leaves for the palace.

Read the poem aloud, enjoying it and exploring its meaning. The poem is perfect for learning by heart and performing with actions. Encourage the children to explore the rhythm and add expression.

Discuss other fairy tale characters and what they might include in a letter to another character, for example, Jack to the giant at the top of the beanstalk or the Big Bad Wolf to the three little pigs.

You can read the poem and watch a video of Laura performing this poem on her website: <https://lauramucha.com/poetry/dear-ugly-sisters/>

## Dear Ugly Sisters

Bread has been baked, veggies are chopped,  
salt in the pan – kitchen's been mopped,  
cleared up the bathroom, cleaned up the sink,  
washed all your socks – still really stink,  
ironed the laundry, folded the sheets,  
serviced the car – here's the receipt,  
dog for a walk, cat to the vet,  
married a wonderful prince that I met

leaving tonight, so good  
dropping my apron and

FROM  
CINDERELLA



## Travel by Book

This poem is a celebration of the magic of reading, exploring how it ignites the imagination and can take readers to other worlds.

Read and enjoy the poem before discussing what it means. Encourage the children to make links to books they might have read which Laura might be referring to, e.g. pirate stories.

Ask the children to suggest stories which have allowed them to 'visit' places or 'meet' new people. Discuss how these ideas could be developed into a poem of their own, using some of the sentence stems from Laura's original.

### TRAVEL BY BOOK

I've travelled the world in a boat on the sea,  
accompanied pirates and lived fancy free,  
I've seen all the things I have wanted to see –  
I did it by reading a book.

I've won many battles, I've swum with the sharks,  
I've found buried treasure alone in the dark,  
I've lived in the elm trees of national parks –  
I did it by reading a book.

I've worn my pyjamas while flying with birds,  
I've travelled alone and I've followed the herd,  
I've relished, devoured and revelled in words,  
I did it by reading a book.

I've met many people, I've made many friends,  
and though I felt sad when I came to the end  
of the journey I'd made – I can make it again  
with the words of a wonderful book.



You can read this poem and listen to Laura performing it on her website: <https://lauramucha.com/poetry/travel-by-book/#> and you can also find it at The Children's Poetry Archive' <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/travel-by-book/>

Great fun, this poem uses lots of alliteration to explore the skills needed for the post of assistant to a wizard.

Share and enjoy the poem by reading aloud, exploring any unfamiliar vocabulary. Discuss the layout and how this supports the meaning.

Gather ideas for different 'assistant' jobs which might be advertised, e.g. a pirate, the Jolly Postman, etc. Generate a list of things which the assistant might have to do and then play with creating alliterative sentences based around these.

Use Laura's layout to present ideas- or encourage the children to develop their own.



## Wanted: Wizard's Assistant

### QUALIFICATIONS

*Candidate must be:*

proficient at palm puzzling  
scroll scribbling  
and potent potion pondering  
spiffing at spell spotting  
good at goblin gobbling  
a champion at chanting  
and wonderful with wobsicles

### JOB DESCRIPTION

*Includes, but not limited to:*

magic marshmallow making on  
Mondays  
tea leaf translating on Tuesdays  
wand wobbling on Wednesdays  
thunder formation on Thursdays  
frightening frogs on Fridays

### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

*Yesterday*

You can read this poem and listen to Laura reading it on her website: <https://lauramucha.com/poetry/wanted-wizard-s-assistant/> or find it on 'The Children's Poetry Archive' <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/wanted-wizards-assistant/>

## Fleming's Petri Dish

This poem is based on the spread of bacteria which Fleming found on a petri dish which led to the discovery of penicillin. Laura's poem is presented in this layout.

Discuss this with the children and gather ideas for other discoveries or perhaps areas of learning from across the curriculum, which they could write about, for example, the continents in KS1, the development of the light bulb.

Laura's poem does not rhyme, allowing children to freely develop sentences about their subject and decide how to lay these out to reflect the subject.





Ideas from the team at NSTBA.

Illustrations by Tania Rex