

**CLORE POETRY AND LITERATURE AWARDS
COMMENTARY ON SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS
ROUND 7: June 2015**

The Foundation received 115 applications to this seventh round of the Awards. A total of 27% came from schools and colleges. The others were from a range of literature and cultural organisations, with a number from youth organisations. The Foundation made 13 Awards totalling £100,137.

The applications in this round maintained the range and reach of previous rounds. There were several intergenerational projects proposed, where older members of communities were to be a source of both expertise and support to children and young people. The geographical spread across the UK was pleasing.

However, there were many proposals which focused on creative writing, and so did not fit the intentions of these Awards which are to connect children and young people to the world of literature, with sustained focus on published poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Attention to form and structure, as well as topic and theme, is to be welcomed.

The successful applications shared some common characteristics:

- Engaging with literature formed a significant part of the project
- The project had a clear rationale in terms of the need
- The engagement with literature was considered, consisting of more than just using the text as a stimulus for an individual response
- The scope and sequence of the project were clear
- The writers and art practitioners were involved with young people over several sessions and the aim was to edit and refine the writing produced until it was good enough for publication or performance
- The reason for the use of other media, e.g. filming, was clear and not just a general record of an event
- Where other art forms beyond literature and poetry were included, they were complementary to the main focus
- The proposed project budgets were broken down and explained
- Digital elements were integrated into the projects, making positive contributions to both the process and the outcomes

The successful applications included:

- Engaging seriously with different forms of writing, such as political drama texts and comedy
- Exploration of contemporary place and identity through great literature from the past

The Foundation has reviewed project evaluations from the earlier rounds of the programme and, for the future, would like to see more:

- Ambition about reading in terms of quality and quantity
- Projects aimed at developing independent reading for pleasure
- Focus on reading quality texts from across the world and across cultures
- Justification of the need for the project
- Detailed project budgets
- An agreement that participating schools will make a contribution to the project budget, however small
- More thinking and clarity about what success for the project would look like
- Rigorous approaches to evaluation

It should also be noted that:

- Teacher supply cover costs for a project will not be covered by the Foundation
- The Foundation is unlikely to purchase Kindles, iPads and other electronic devices as part of the project
- Funding is unlikely to be awarded for the purchase of books
- The focus of these Awards is on poetry and literature: proposals which are primarily about children's creative writing are less likely to be successful.

18 June 2015