

STEP INTO DANCE 20TH ANNIVERSARY POETRY COMPETITION

Over the past 20 years, Step into Dance has helped thousands of young people discover confidence, creativity, friendship and self-expression through dance. We want to hear from the young people who are part of its story today. Whether you've been dancing with us for one term, one year, or many years, we invite you to write an original poem about your experience of Step into Dance.

Your poem could reflect on:

- Your first Step into Dance class
- How dance makes you feel
- New skills you've learned
- Friendships you've made
- Challenges you've overcome
- Moments you're proud of
- What being part of Step into Dance means to you
- Where dance might take you in the future

There is no right or wrong approach. We want to hear your unique voice and experience.

Entry Requirements

- Open to all Step into Dance participants (past and present) aged 11-18, up to 25 for our SEND students
- Poems must be original work
- The use of AI is not permitted. Entries found to be using AI will be disqualified
- Only one entry per young person
- Poems must relate the theme 'My Step into Dance Experience'
- You must be happy for your poem to be utilised across our celebrations in a variety of formats including press and print
- Minimum length: 50 words
- Maximum length: 300 words

Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged by our Step into Dance Leaders who will be judging the poems on:

- Creativity and originality
- Connection to the theme
- Impact
- Use of language and imagery

Prize

- Your poem will be featured as part of the Step into Dance 20th Anniversary celebrations
- Free tickets the winner and two guests to attend Step Live on 13 July 2027, in London
- A £20 Waterstones voucher

How to enter

Competition launches 1st October and entries close 13th November 2026.

Please submit your original poem to us via email at stepintodance@rad.org.uk with the Subject line "Poetry Competition" or you can post it to us at

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Royal Academy of Dance
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London
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