



# Home Words: Poetry Challenge

## Celebrating multilingual Birmingham

The Home Words campaign asked young people and adults all over Birmingham to share special words from their home languages. People submitted words from foreign and heritage languages, regional dialects and slang, and their diverse hobbies and interests.

You can find a list of Birmingham's 'Home Words' - alongside their meanings and stories - on the National Literacy Trust website. [literacytrust.org.uk/communities/birmingham/home-words](https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/birmingham/home-words)



Scan the QR to view Birmingham's 'Home Words' website

### Poetry challenge

We asked local poets Ayan Aden, Bohdan Piasecki and Japmeh Kaur Gujral to write poems using some of the Birmingham 'Home Words'. You can view these poems on the same website.

Now, we challenge you to write a 'Home Words' poem of your own.

First, pick four of the 'Home Words' submitted for the campaign from the website.

	Home Word (from the website)	Meaning	Where does this word come from?	Why does this word stand out to you?
1				
2				
3				
4				

Unsure where to start? Local poet Ayan Aden advises that you close your eyes and think about one of the words you have picked. Then ask yourself:

- What image do you see when you think of this word?
- How does this word make you feel?
- What does this word remind you of?
- If this word didn't exist, how would you describe it?



**Ayan Aden**  
Birmingham Poet Laureate  
2024-2026

## Your 'Home Words' poem

**Celebrate your 'Home Words' poem!** You are a part of Birmingham's thriving multilingual culture.

Share your poem with us by emailing it to [birmingham@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@literacytrust.org.uk). If you like, we can share the poem online, and even provide opportunities for you to read it aloud to an audience.

If you are aged under 16, ask your teacher, parent or carer to email your poem on your behalf.