



## Marrickville High School, NSW, 2016 Poetry Workshop, with Candy Royalle

Students from Marrickville High School will work with acclaimed poet and performer, Candy Royalle to develop their own protest poems about the issues most important to them. Using the conventions of written and spoken poetry, the students will work to develop their own pieces that incorporate different styles, voices, subject matter and cultural traditions - culminating in a click-frenzied revolutionary reading.

Red Room Poetry Education inspires students and teachers to create, perform and publish poetry. We enliven experiences with poetry by bringing contemporary poets into classrooms across Australia to run intensive writing workshops that awaken imaginations, support creative opportunities and curriculum outcomes.



The Red Room Company at Marrickville High School, NSW, 2016  
[redroomcompany.org/education/](http://redroomcompany.org/education/)



## Protest poem

Do you feel happy: When...  
They told you to do it  
You do it  
In anger

Do you feel happy: When...  
They ask you to bring it  
you bring it  
in upsetness

Freedom belongs to you  
Freedom belongs to everyone  
Freedom is your own  
And freedom is powerful.

You have to fight for it  
To make it your own  
To end the injustice  
And to let them know  
That you have your life  
That they aren't strong  
They aren't the "boss"  
And they freedom can win

Freedom, freedom, freedom

Stand up,  
Raise your voice.  
Bring it up and fight  
Fight for it.

freedom, freedom,  
freedom, freedom,  
freedom.

- Anh

## War and Effects

Where I am in the field surrounded with  
light that can be killed. You must run with all you got to survive to see the  
next morning with your own two eyes. Don't  
turn back for your love once with a  
all their heart you have to run  
for your mother who give life for  
your father who give you give.  
to grant their wish you must alive. Don't  
you dare turning back, they take it  
all maybe even your smallest life you  
must survive.

- Sawat

## Whaling and animal rights

I am here to talk about whaling  
and animal rights.  
this is because I believe in  
general aren't being treated  
fairly and its not right.  
killing whales or animals in  
general is just like killing one of us.

Domestic animals face all types of  
abuse. Most people wouldn't hit another  
person but hit an animal.

Whales are an endangered species,  
and people sill hunt them.

- Maddox

## Future

The future.

The future depends on you and I.

It comes from creativity and  
wise choices to choose and learn from.

You grow up as a child  
and you decide choices for what you want to  
do. Even  
if your just playing with  
your imagination, it can still  
lead to magnificent choices.

You then go on in life through primary  
and high school. Even the toughest  
days can walk you through  
but can still get through the walk.  
You and I cannot give up after  
a simple fail through them  
experiences. It's a way of learning  
a lesson.

You my friend, can work together  
to shape our futures.  
So our past us can learn from  
it.

Now your in UNI facing your  
goals to be achieved, and again  
my friend the tough days  
will be chasing you around until  
you find somewhere unique to hide  
or you can face your choices.

- Pesi



## Whaling

My name is Pete and today I met  
a friend. He's a whale named Clyde.

Pete and Clyde

I hang out all the time  
and because I'm in school  
I have to rhyme.

- AJ

## Homophobia

"Gay", a word used more as an insult  
than a word used to describe an orientation.  
They don't care how we feel  
They don't even think we're real.

"Homosexuality is a disease",  
a sentence used to make us see  
how disgusting we must be.

What is homophobia?  
Homophobia is when people shout slurs at you  
for being yourself.  
It's when people call you "fag" or "dyke",  
People think that your wrong when your right.

Even if people sat 'it's a joke'  
they don't understand what they do  
we feel broke.

They think it's ok 'we're your friends'  
they say, but what they don't know  
what they don't see with those words when they blow  
is how much my anxiety grows.

- Gabriel

## Protest Poem

Bees are the knees  
of our society  
just like the  
bee's knees

Without them society  
will fall into despair  
just like the scientist  
say on the tele

Bees have done great  
amounts of work  
just as hard as we  
humans work.

unfortunately annoying pests  
have hijacked our friends  
if nothing is done our fall  
will be worse than 911.

The government us stubborn  
as ever if nothing is done  
all will have been for nought  
the situation is escalating

to the unreturnable point  
if only had the government  
listened to the poor old scientist  
the situation would have been better.

- Radhi

## Feminist

She doesn't wear that lipstick,  
to get a guys attention.  
she doesn't wear that  
mini skirt, because she's desperate.

just because she wears  
short shorts doesn't mean  
she wants a one night stand.  
just because she gets plastic  
surgery, doesn't mean she's a fake person.

the cat calls aren't nice,  
she isn't asking for it  
is she has a smokey eye.

she's not a cleaner  
she's not a slave  
she doesn't deserve a lower pay  
because of her gender.  
She never wished to clean the dishes everyday  
while the husband rest, watching sports, while drinking beer.

It's not her fault that she  
got raped.  
its not her fault of alcohol, miniskirts or because she like to flirt.  
its because we made a place where she has less of a worth,  
the rapist walk away while the victims lay hurt.

sometimes the only freedom she  
needs is to not get judged by her gender.

- Laila

## Where I'm From

I'm from a country full of blue  
with ancient historical monuments  
Islands with soft sand like  
clouds and clear beaches as diamonds  
noisy people talking loud  
dancing in circles and expressing how  
they feel and drinking alcohol  
teenagers protesting to the teachers  
and leaving early from the  
school. My country is crazy but  
it's friendly and we all have a  
common. The love we have for  
our country, how much we respect  
each other and showing how to  
love others, to the younger people  
of our country.

Sometimes we don't make sense  
and we look crazy to the other  
countries, but they're never lived  
with us so they might not be able  
to understand Greek life and our  
love for life.

- Dimitra

## Great Barrier Reef

Full of rubbish  
when there should be sea creatures  
enjoying their time,  
not choking on rubbish.

- Natasha

## Protest poem

Terrorism has been a great danger in the whole  
world wide world which has taken millions of  
people's lives.

Terrorism which had been  
created by groups of people that have the  
same beliefs.

Terrorist which are people involve for using terrorism  
as a strategy to prove their beliefs.  
Killing people are very horrendous and horrible  
as people are pointed guns at and getting  
shot in the head.

Terrorism had been happening for years and  
people has not been able to interact and  
get and agreement with a terrorist.

soldiers reunite to fight off the  
attacks of this people who call themselves  
terrorists.

People who hated religions like Jewish, were called  
ISIS which killed Jewish people in a terrifying  
way.

- John

## Sierra Leone

A country with  
sweet dreams and hopes  
it's fun with love, happiness, peace  
freedom. Not it's going down.

A country with love  
We need got try to make this  
country better. It doesn't matter how  
it is today. Things still have to be  
good one day.

A country with freedom  
now that God has blessed us we  
need to be with confidence.  
no place like home.  
This is our motherland and we  
need to come together to make  
this land.  
I just know that we are the  
one that have to make our country.  
I just know that we are the  
one that have to developed this country.

Lets stop hatred, gossip, violence.  
we all have the same right  
and equality.  
lets take our hands off the things that will spoil this country.

- Elizabeth

## Protest poem

I am your average Joe  
my country's in hell  
approaching with haste  
bullets, bombs then rape, they destroy my country.

My young brothers and I take up arms  
to take away the harm  
that takes my family away  
now this is the only way.

Rebels we are to survive  
we fight to thrive  
to die for each other.

There is no help or aid  
our ideals are shattered  
our streets battered  
with anger and revenge we rush

For what?  
Nothing, fighting towards a reward  
that all have ended in destruction and  
genocide, this toxide surrounds us humans forever

Now a pungent smell resides in corpses  
I move across piles of dead brothers  
killing each other for the thing we are expected to:  
Now my cycle repeats. Another dat.  
same shit.

But now this is different, to realise  
this new freedom is what we want.  
my comrades and fight over  
the toxide to reach the new lives.

The false lies they fed us  
now are obvious  
we see it as the last poppies.

Before we know it  
we are in another disrupted country  
Prosecuted and Bagged we are  
Not knowing we are now hanged and gagged.

- Scott

## Racism and bullying

There are bunch of people  
in this world who look  
different but they are the  
same in many ways. I'm living  
in a country where they re bullying me.  
because I am from a different place than them.  
But never ever let anyone let you down  
just focus on yourself and thrive.  
and show them you shine more than them.

People usually make fun of my skin colour  
but no this is a whole different thing.  
Sometimes I just wanna punch everyone  
but I can't because they are human too.  
But no one knows how I feel  
sometimes I just want to punch them.  
When I cam e to this place it was dark,  
cold, mean people, but I never knew why they do this to.

- Shahil

## Protest Poem

I am not American  
nor Australian  
To all the haters  
lend me a hand

The winner of presidency  
He won far and square  
do you smell that?  
smells like burgers and fries

Red, white and blue  
chose him  
the meme king  
"bing bing bong"!

The winner, lets face it.  
it is Trump  
no need to race it  
Just kiss his fat rump.

The wall is coming  
oh so near  
the haters be hatin  
whilst the Mexicans fear

Hillary put up a fight  
like fisher  
without a bite  
1000000 to be exact.

Trump won  
deal with it America  
nothing you can do  
but move.

- Misel



## Protest Poem

A disagreement  
an argument  
a fight  
but they came to their senses  
breakfast  
drop him at school  
work  
pick him back up  
dinner  
bed  
A disagreement  
an argument  
a fight  
and then she's lying on the ground  
and he's shaking and the kid is crying  
and she snot moving  
and sirens are blaring and neighbours are screaming  
into their phones  
a kid has no mother  
and he's filled with hate and sorrow and anger and...

This happens to a family every week.  
every week  
    a child has no mother  
every week  
    A woman dies, the only escape from the abuse  
every week  
    A man is in jail  
every week  
    A child's life is destroyed.  
every week  
    52 lives are destroyed every week.  
    52 childhoods ripped to shreds  
    52 men full of regret.

- Finn

## Protest poem

Harmless wales die.  
feel pain or make a change  
help these whales survive.

Live or regret killing  
harmless animals

The regret will be so big  
that they will go in eternal  
denial

see through tier eyes  
the fear is like a comet  
hitting earth.

the killers still kill even  
wit the laws that banned  
this event.

Let them live  
let them thrive.

I say you hear me  
let them live  
let them thrive  
let them free  
let them free.

Callan

## Racism and Bullying

Some people bully  
cause of the skin,  
but they don't know it  
gives them depression

Look at the people who  
think they are cool  
calling others fools  
and not following the rules

stealing other peoples lunch  
money and calling them names  
they thinkits funny.

they called me black,  
they called me asian,  
Please I don't want this to happen,  
I'm praying.

- Fealofui

## Protest poem

It's called education most are fortunate  
and have it but some of us don't. We  
all should cause its alright.  
Take a trip to Africa  
in 1000 degree heat.  
Across the plains of gravel mud and dirt.  
The heat blaers on my back I am red  
from the burn. My feet are charring and burning.  
Still 2 hours to go cause I know  
if I don't get to school I am gonna  
become a fool.

- Blake

## Protest Poem

Pushed into the dark  
I fall to the ground  
as you stand  
on your feet making a remark

Your words are like  
swords mine like wooden  
sticks, can push you down  
but leave no scar

The door to the dark  
running, running to and away from the door, fear  
surrounded by you.

knees buckling  
head shaking hoping its not true  
shouting words  
at me feeling like we're in a pillow fight

but you're using a  
pillow stuffed with  
steel, a hard hit to the face  
would be hard to heal.

Laughs are meant to be  
for happiness but yours  
are for feeding what's  
ever causing m=have to go  
through that door.

Your footsteps echoes  
looking for a way to find me  
to push me into the dark  
and just because I did  
something you tap the  
screen and ruin me.

Does anyone else go through  
the torture you put me in? Does somebody else  
get laughed at too?  
pushed to the ground?  
by you?

Do your friends support you?  
of course they do  
do they support me?  
of course they don't.  
If I fall into depression  
will you be happy with yourself?  
my screams please you  
you know that my suffering makes you feel accomplished.  
makes you feel happy.  
makes you feel better.  
you humiliate me.

- Nina Dawson

## Protest poem

They say this is just a phase  
they say you still don't know who you are  
but they don't know behind your eyes  
they don't know inside your mind.

The kids at school call you fool  
they hurt you and call you names  
but they don't know the real you  
They see you behind a wall of words.

People don't accept you for who you  
are, or who you want to be.  
You're frowned upon from your own  
grandparents to your former friends.  
the screeching of their words  
the still on their fists.

- Pascal

## Protest poem

People around the world are dying every day.  
We don't understand what we have made.

I've seen people on the streets dying  
from starvation and discrimination, just  
because they are different.

We are all different, no one is the same,  
**BE YOURSELF!**

Don't let anyone put one down just because  
of culture, gender or sexuality.  
Try beat reality, because everyone's unique.

you have to believe in yourself,  
try and defeat all the odds.  
Together we can achieve a lot.

A person once told me to believe in myself  
and if you do, you can be as good as or even  
better as anybody else.

We have to stop the wars, not create them.  
The only way to build world peace is everyone  
and country working together.

I had visions of peace and freedom,  
but that is only a vision.

We can make it happen though, and  
it starts with you.

-Oscar

The Red Room Company at Marrickville High School, NSW, 2016  
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**Candy Royale** is an award-winning performing writer, performance artist, poet, storyteller, activist, educator and vulnerability advocate who fuses cinematic storytelling, poetry and unique vocal rhythms with confronting, political and heart-thumping content seeking to break open closed hearts. She tackles topics ranging from sexual obsession to social injustice, exploring the human condition and illuminating the darker areas of the human psyche for her audiences.

### **About Us**

The Red Room Company creates unusual and useful poetry projects that transform expectations of, and experiences with, poetry. We aspire to make poetry accessible to all, especially those who face the greatest barriers to creative opportunities.