

**The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators 2024-2025**

**Guide for Teachers**

Welcome to the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators! This competition for schools was launched in 2020 by the Translation Exchange at The Queen’s College, Oxford and had over 16,000 participants in 2024. The competition is inspired by the work of the translator Anthea Bell OBE (1936–2018), one of the finest and most influential literary translators of the 20th and 21st centuries.

**Our aims**

We founded this competition to promote language learning across the UK and to inspire creativity in the classroom. By providing teachers with tools to bring translation to life, and to introduce more authentic texts into the classroom, we hope to motivate more pupils to study modern foreign languages throughout their schooling and beyond.

The competition itself takes place in February-March 2025. To make sure that this isn’t a one-off event, but something that can be integrated into the year’s teaching, we provide three sets of resources for MFL teachers to use in the build-up to the competition. These focus on translating poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction. You can read more about our approach to developing the first set of resources in our Oxford Education Blog post: <https://educationblog.oup.com/secondary/mfl/the-anthea-bell-prize-for-young-translators>

**Resource packs**

The prize is made up of three sets of resource packs on translating poetry, fiction and non-fiction, which build towards a competition task. The resources are targeted at four levels in six languages (French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Russian and Spanish), plus a beginners Russian-language strand for students in KS5. French resources for levels 1 and 2 are also available in Welsh.

Most poetry and fiction resource packs include a PowerPoint, worksheet and notes for teachers. The notes for teachers suggest possible timings and ways to use the resource but teachers should adapt resources as they see fit to suit their students’ needs and their own interests. All poetry and fiction resources include an extension activity which could be run as a follow-up lesson or for homework.

The final set of resources on translating non-fiction is intended as a practice for the competition; they include a worksheet and notes for teachers.

*A note for teachers who have previously participated in the prize:* You will be familiar with some of the available resource packs from previous years of the prize. We highlight more recent resources – ‘New in 2024-25’, ‘New in 2023-24’ and so on – in the links to each padlet on the main resource webpage. We are reliant on external funding for all of our resources, and publish new resources when funding permits.

All resource packs can be accessed via this link with the password provided in the welcome email: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/anthea-bell-prize/resources/>

Please note that the texts used in the resource packs are not the texts to be translated for the competition; the competition tasks will be shared with teachers on 3 February 2025, see the below timeline for more information.

**Our approach to creative translation**

**Glossaries**

We provide a glossary to accompany each translation task in the resource packs and with the competition task. Words given in these glossaries are suggestions and are there to help students decode the text; students might choose to deviate from these suggestions.

**Levels**

Resources and competition tasks are targeted at four levels in each language. We advise teachers to select levels according to how languages are taught in your school.

Level 1: beginning of KS3 (or first year of learning the language)

Level 2: end of KS3 (or second and/or third year of learning the language)

Level 3: KS4

Level 4: KS5

Beginners Russian: for students in KS5 with no knowledge of Russian

**Give students a taste of a new language with our ab initio resources!** They could be run:

* as a traditional lesson led by a teacher (with or without knowledge of Russian);
* or as an extension or homework activity for keen linguists looking to explore new languages and perhaps thinking about picking up another language at university;
* or, students at your school who are native speakers of Russian could lead this activity.

No prior knowledge of Russian is required to deliver these ab initio resources. We include an introduction to the Cyrillic alphabet and pronunciation guidance in each resource.

**Videos accompanying the resources**

A video introducing the Anthea Bell Prize is included in every padlet. We suggest showing this video the first time you use one of our resources or run a competition task with a group of students.

We have also recorded several interviews with Oxford graduates and professional literary translators to accompany Russian-language resources. These are included in all Russian-language poetry padlets. As well as a specific Russian-language focus, contributors discuss careers with languages and the work of literary translators more generally, and so these videos might be of interest to teachers and students in other languages.

**Schools in Wales**

We run the prize for French>Welsh translation for levels 1 & 2: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/anthea-bell-prize-for-wales/>. We hope to source funding to expand this provision in the years to come.

Schools can choose to enter students for translation from French into Welsh, English or both languages.

**Guidance for bilingual or EAL students**

We encourage students for whom one of the competition languages is their first language, or for whom English is an Additional Language, to enter the competition. The translation task will present a different sort of challenge for these students working into English.

**Competition tasks**

The competition will run in schools during an eight-week window in the second half of the Spring term, from 3 February to 28 March 2025. You can run the competition in school or you can set the competition as a homework task over the half-term break or at any other time. Students can work on their translation in groups or pairs if they prefer. We ask that students receive no assistance from teachers or parents when completing the task.

Schools are welcome to submit entries for as many levels in as many languages as they wish, but we will ask that teachers submit only the top five entries for each level in each language from each school. Entries will be submitted via an online form. Detailed submission instructions will be shared with the competition tasks on 3 February 2025.

When submitting entries for the competition, we ask that students include their year group at the top of their submission.

The closing date for teachers to submit entries to the competition will be 28 March 2025. Please note that we can extend this deadline by one week to 4 April if required.

A team of Oxford undergraduates and professional translators will judge entries to the competition. Professional translators will be based in or originally from the area that they judge. Our judges look to reward creativity; winning entries will strike a balance between creativity and accuracy.

Area winners are selected for each level in each language. UK-wide winners and runners-up for each level in each language are selected from the area winners. A number of commendations are awarded to recognise high quality work. See the full list of winners from 2024: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/anthea-bell-prize/anthea-bell-prize-2024-winners-and-commendees/#collapse10090>

**Next steps**

After you have used the poetry resources, please fill out our feedback form: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/anthea-bell-prize/anthea-bell-prize-feedback-for-teachers/>. We always welcome feedback on our resources and any other aspects of the prize.

We are particularly keen to hear from state schools about the accessibility of our resources. Please get in touch to let us know your thoughts. The Anthea Bell Prize is informed by Inclusive Outreach through Translation, our project that looked at how creative translation improve inclusion in modern languages outreach: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/inclusive-outreach-through-translation/>.

**Timeline for 2024-2025**

* September: Launch of Anthea Bell Prize; teachers receive first set of resources on translating poetry
* October half term: Resources on translating fiction shared with all registered teachers
* January: Resources on translating non-fiction shared with all registered teachers
* February-March: The competition window will open for 8 weeks (3 February – 28 March).
* May: Winners of the 2025 competition will be announced
* June-July: Certificates and book prizes will be sent to the winners and commendees

**Further opportunities from the Translation Exchange**

Alongside the Anthea Bell Prize, why not start an **International Book Club** at your school? International Book Clubs are an opportunity for students to explore foreign-language literature in translation, deepening their interest in translated fiction by discovering and discussing new texts with their peers.

Taking part in an International Book Club helps students to develop critical skills, articulate their ideas and opinions, and take initiative by selecting books they are interested in. Organising and participating in a Book Club looks great on a UCAS application, and is a great addition to any CV.

Our guide for teachers and sixth-formers is free to download, and gives tips on how to start an International Book Club at your school. Our Book Club resource bank includes reading and discussion guides for eight books. You can find both here: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/book-club-for-schools/>

You can read one sixth-former's blog about their experience organising an International Book Club here: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/blog/a-diary-of-an-international-book-club/>

We are always pleased to hear about what is going on at your International Book Club, or any suggestions for books that could be featured in our guides. If your students are interested in a particular language or region, we are happy to suggest suitable texts, and to support with sourcing copies.

In 2025, we hope to relaunch an expanded International Book Club programme for schools. Watch this space!

**Where can learning a language take you?**

This year, the Translation Exchange produced a short video featuring Languages graduates from The Queen’s College, Oxford, speaking about how their studies have enriched their lives and careers. You may wish to share this with your pupils, to show where learning a language can take you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjYDEp7GlqY>

**Contact us:**

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