

About this set of poems

These three poems were written in connection with National Poetry Day. They were part of a range of texts created by students from [The Langley Academy](#), Slough, during workshops led by English Literature and Museum Studies students from the University of Reading. These particular pieces were in response to a sheep bell from The MERL which features in *51 Voices*.

Sheep bell

The metallic bronze bell is old and dusty,
It can also feel quite rusty.
Every day a performance as a prop,
I hope I don't mess up or worse be dropped!

What do you think of?
What should I know?
I'm sure you put on quite a show.
Do you have any dreams?
Perhaps to go on Broadway,
Or maybe perform for the Queen.

Wait, what did you say?
You can talk! No way!
What is your story if I may?

*Anonymous student from The Langley Academy
7 October 2021*



Sheep bell (MERL 54/92)

The sheep bell

Good morning bell!
How are you today?
Are you enjoying,
Your seventieth birthday?
Rusting, cold and ancient though you are,
Your story is just one of a kind.
So allow me to ask you some questions,
And answer them, if you don't mind.
Did you like your place in the museum?
Did children rap on your glass?
Or was is annoying?
For your were just some old, metal parts.
Or maybe let's go further back,
To the time of Queens Victorian.
When you were in the theatre,
The star of the show.
And every time you had to speak,
Ting, Ting, Ting you go.
More further back than that you left the factory,
Shiny, clean, brand new,
You were made to be around a sheep's neck,
Which you looked forward to do.
But what went wrong, To lead you here to ne?
Thank you for your answers,
Your thrilling, wonderful tales.
And although we're out of time today,
I'll be back for more details.



Sheep bell (MERL 54/92)

*Jai (Year 8 student at The Langley Academy)
7 October 2021*

Sheep bell

I pick up the cold, heavy bell.

All out of emotion.

I turn it around; the strong smell of iron attacks me.

A thick layer of dust stains the bell.

And I think...

Where have you been?

What happened to you?

How do you feel?

The ringing of the sheep bell deafens my ears.

Did it just answer back???

Chahat (Year 7 student at The Langley Academy)

7 October 2021



Sheep bell (MERL 54/92)