

What shape is your year?

This is a useful poem to use at the beginning of an academic year or at the end, looking towards the next year (particularly if pupils are moving to a new school).

What shape is your year?

My best friend's year is a long, straight line
That stretches to December.

My teacher's year is an endless loop
From September to September.

But my year is a steep, steep curve
That climbs through winter haze,

Then takes a roller coaster dive
To summer holidays.

Clare Bevan

- Read the poem aloud or ask a pupil to do so.
- In groups, children discuss why the poet has written this poem and why people's years might be different shapes.
- Share ideas as a whole class
- Model your own year – either through a drawing or a poem or a story
- In groups, children discuss how they think the year ahead is likely to look.
- Children represent the shape of the coming year in any format they wish.
- Finish with a 'classroom walk' where children leave their representation on their desk and walk around looking at others and chatting about the different ideas.