

I hope you enjoy this poem.
It makes me smile every time
I read it. I like that it is funny
and has a little message about
love. You can read it aloud
yourself or ask someone else
to read it to you. Maybe you'll
think about the vole next time
you put on your shoes.

Jane Clarke

A Vole Poem

by Linda McGrory

A vole woke up one dreamy day and had a funny thought:
I am love, she said,
But with the letters jumbled up.
Look at me, a wee brown vole, so lowly, lowly in the ground,
Yet does it really matter where love is to be found?
I ran inside your shoe one day; you were a tad confused,
You thought I was a dormouse or perhaps a pygmy shrew.
But I am vole, a wee brown vole, a fact my friends all knew,
And with the letters jumbled up, I am love inside your shoe.

From *I am the wind: Irish Poems for Children Everywhere*,
edited by Lucinda Jacob and Sarah Webb, (Little Island Books, 2024).

A Vole Poem has been picked especially for children and young people in hospital by a fantastic and award-winning poet, if you don't mind! Her name is Jane Clarke.

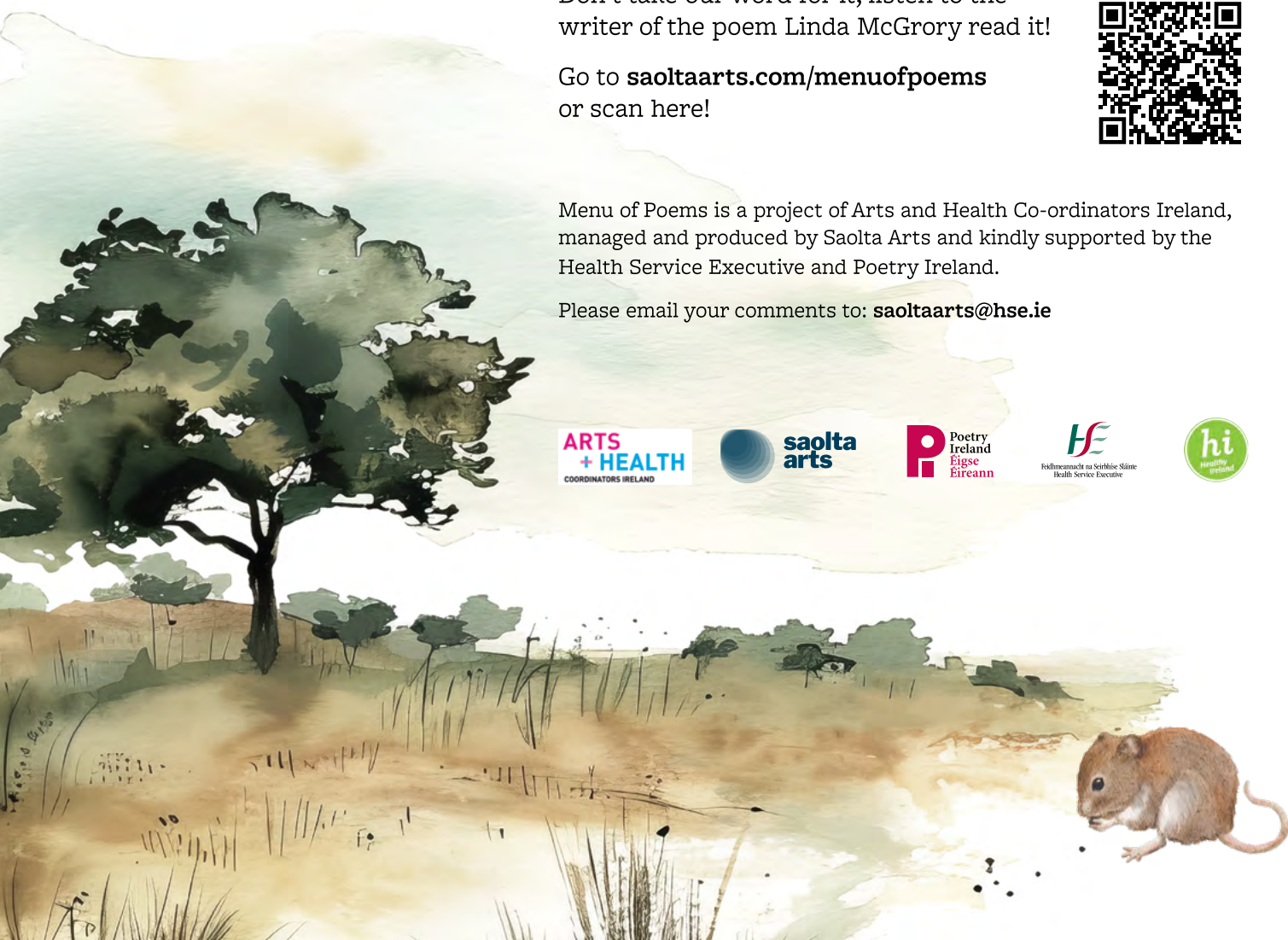
This lovely poem is brought to you as part of a brilliant project called Menu of Poems. What do you think of it? Did you read it out loud? It sounds great when you do! Don't take our word for it, listen to the writer of the poem Linda McGrory read it!

Go to saoltaarts.com/menuofpoems
or scan here!



Menu of Poems is a project of Arts and Health Co-ordinators Ireland, managed and produced by Saolta Arts and kindly supported by the Health Service Executive and Poetry Ireland.

Please email your comments to: saoltaarts@hse.ie



Activity by Lucinda Jacob

A Vole Poem - Be Inspired – Write your own poem!

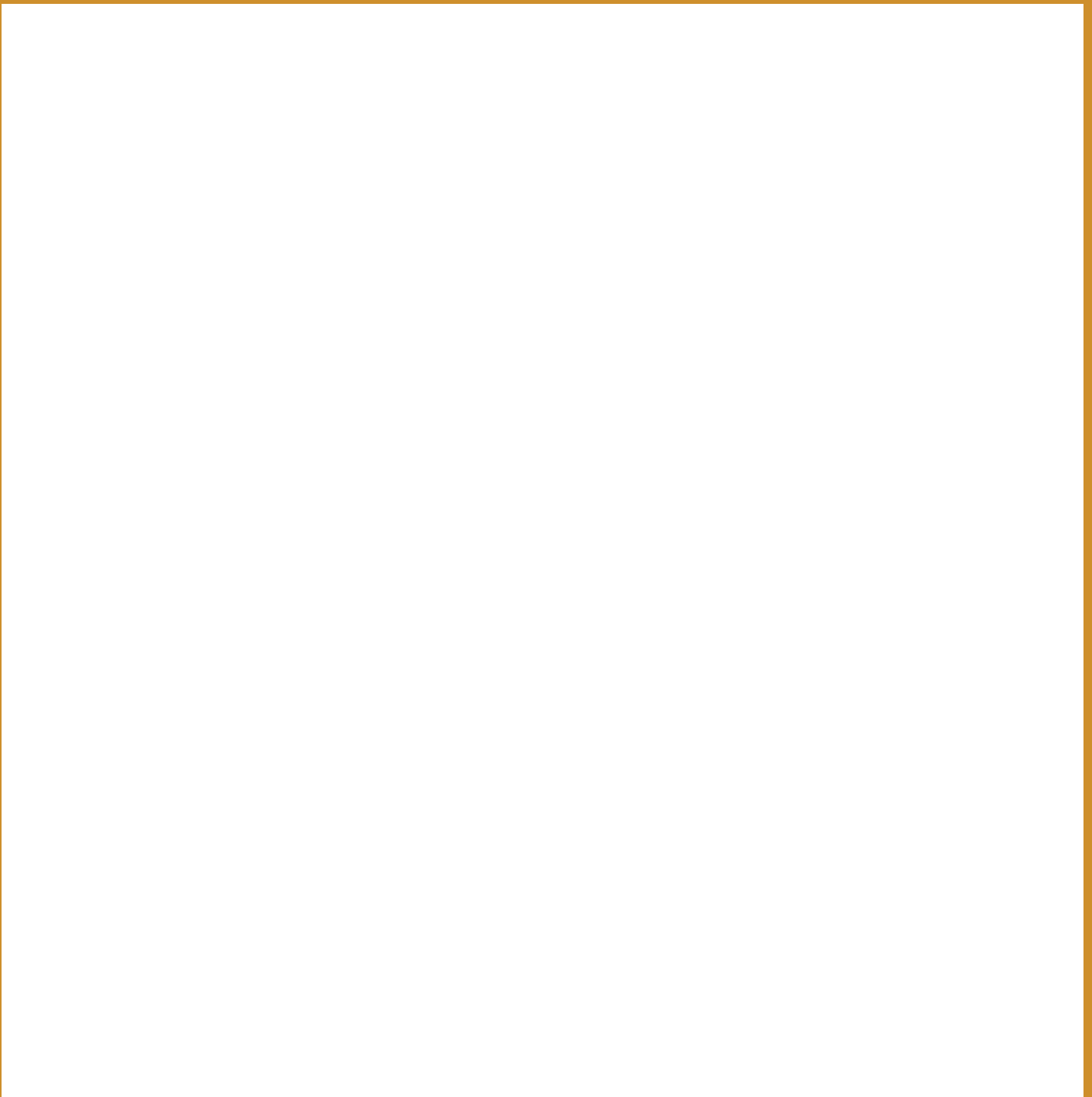
We hope you enjoyed *A Vole Poem*. You could write your own poem here.

It could be about your favourite animal. In *A Vole Poem* the vole is talking. If you were an animal what would be thinking? What would you say to us? Start a new line each time the animal has a new thought.

You could play with words to make your poem, just like Linda McGrory. Did you notice that ‘vole’ and ‘love’ have the same letters all mixed up? That is called an Anagram. Here are some more anagrams you could use in your own poem: cat – act, eat – tea, rat – art, dog – god, tables – stable.

Remember, poems are a good place to put your thoughts and they don’t have to rhyme. Have fun!

If you don’t want to write you could draw a picture instead. It could be a vole or any other animal.

A large white rectangular area intended for students to write their poem or draw a picture of an animal. The area is completely blank and occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.