MEDIA RELEASE

Winners of all-island POETRY ALOUD poetry-speaking competition (which drew 1,600 entries from schools on the island of Ireland) announced

7 December 2012: When it was launched six years ago, the annual POETRY ALOUD all-island poetry speaking competition for post-primary school pupils organised by the National Library of Ireland in association with Poetry Ireland, attracted just a few hundred entries. Since 2006, interest has grown enormously, with this year's competition drawing 1,600 entries from schools north and south.

Today, **Friday 7 December**, 33 finalists competed in a day-long event judged by Gerard Smith, Chair of Poetry Ireland, former journalist and poetry critic with *The Irish Times*; Dr Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Irish novelist and short story writer, playwright, author of children's books and co-curator of the NLI exhibition on William Butler Yeats; Mark O'Halloran, scriptwriter and actor who has written award-winning screenplays for the films *Adam and Paul* and *Garage*.

The Overall Winner was **Shauna Hession, St Michael's Holy Faith, Dublin.**

The three category winners were:

- Emily Guiney, Notre Dame, Churchtown, Dublin (Junior Category)
- Cian Siggins, Coláiste Einde, Salthill, Galway (Intermediate Category)
- Shauna Hession, St Michael's Holy Faith, Finglas, Dublin (Senior Category)

The Overall Winner received a cheque for €200 and a perpetual trophy designed by Meath-based sculptor, Fiona Smith-Darragh (the Seamus Heaney Poetry Aloud Award). The winners of each of the other award categories received €300 and a book token for their school.

The three runners-up were: Danny O Treasaigh, Coláiste Oiriall, Monaghan (Junior Category); Orla Nolan, Ursuline College Sligo (Intermediate Category) and Emmanuela Pomah, St Michael's Holy Faith, Finglas, Dublin (Senior Category).

Each of the three runners-up in the Finals received a book token.

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