

Scottish poet, and former poet laureate Jackie Kay, describes our universal desire to begin each new year afresh.

We make promises to ourselves that we sometimes keep, and sometimes break. Rather than viewing the broken promises as a failure, Kay offers a toast to *all* of our promises at the beginning of a new year: both the ones “made to be broken” and the ones “made to last”.

*Happy new academic year, everybody!*

## **Promise**

Remember, the time of year  
when the future appears  
like a blank sheet of paper  
a clean calendar, a new chance.  
On thick white snow

you vow fresh footprints  
then watch them go  
with the wind’s hearty gust.  
Fill your glass. Here’s tae us.  
Promises  
made to be broken, made to last.

**Jackie Kay**