

# Great New Poetry Books Recommended for Children

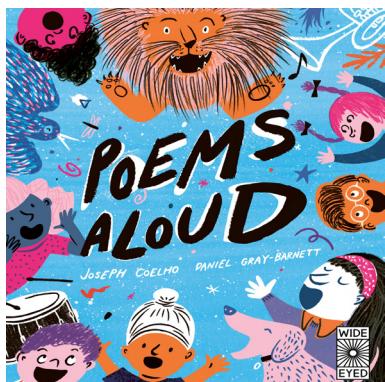
## A National Poetry Day selection

NATIONAL  
POETRY  
DAY 2020

See It Like a Poet

### Poems Aloud

Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett, *Wide Eye Editions*, £11.99



Perfect for confident children and shy readers alike, this book teaches all sorts of clever ways to perform poetry. Children will learn 20 different techniques for reading aloud, using 20 funny and thoughtful original poems by the much-loved and award-winning performance poet, Joseph Coelho.

There are tongue twisters, poems to project, poems to whisper, poems to make you laugh. There are poems to perform to a whole class and others to whisper in somebody's ear. Richly textured, warm and stylish illustration by Daniel Gray-Barnett bring each page to life.

### Zombierella: Fairytales Gone Bad

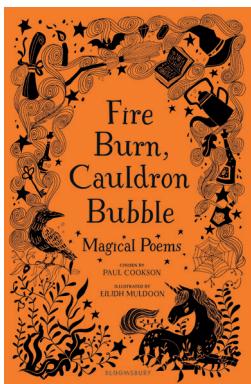
Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Freya Hartas, *Walker Books*, £7.99



The first in a funny, deliciously dark, three-part series of twisted classics, written in verse by award-winning poet Joseph Coelho and illustrated by Freya Hartas. A yellow moon hangs in a satin sky on the night that Cinderella, barefoot and in hand-me-downs, slips at the top of the stairs... and dies. But not for long. The Shadow of Death arrives to breathe life back into her bones and, for three nights only, Cinderella goes forth as Zombierella. With her skin as cold as ice and her faithful horse Lumpkin back by her side, can she seek revenge on her three cruel sisters, once and for all? Crawl out of the grave and step into your mushroom carriage for this haunting and humorous adventure of the undead girl searching for her happily ever after.

### Fire Burn, Cauldron Bubble: Magical Poems

Edited by Paul Cookson, illustrated by Eilidh Muldoon, *Bloomsbury Education*, £9.99

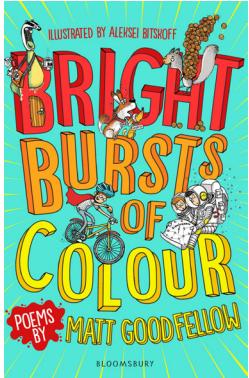


Can you hear the distant dragon's rumble of thunder? And smell the sweet swampy aroma of the ogre? Can you taste the tangy tarantula tarts? From magic carpets and wands to unicorns, potions, creams and lotions, Paul Cookson's brewing a spell of fantastically magic poems.

Beautifully illustrated, this enchanting anthology brings together work from a range of classic, established and rising poets including Lewis Carroll, Shakespeare, Benjamin Zephaniah, John Agard, Valerie Bloom, Matt Goodfellow, Joshua Seigal and A.F. Harrold. Whether you're in the mood for a haunting or a spell gone wrong, this collection will have you bewitched from beginning to end!

## Bright Bursts of Colour

Matt Goodfellow, illustrated by Aleksei Bitskoff, *Bloomsbury Education*, £5.99



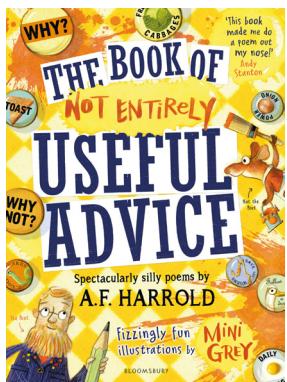
*Matt Goodfellow is a fresh voice on the children's poetry scene.*

— Pie Corbett

What if cats had flavoured fur or if you swallowed the sun? What if you were a special kind of badger or if you found a map to the stars? And what if your home was split during the week: one half at Mum's, the other half at Dad's? Packed with brilliant poems that explore a whole range of themes from the downright silly to the sensitive, this collection will resonate with children and adults alike.

## The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice

A.F. Harrold, illustrated by Mini Grey, *Bloomsbury Children's Books*, £14.99

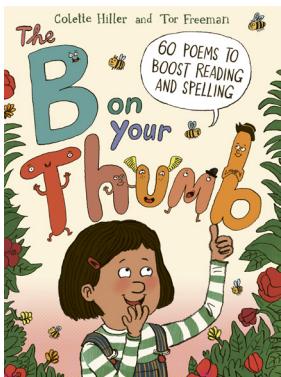


A riotous celebration of words and a modern take on cautionary tales – featuring advice on parrots, gravy, mathematics, castles (bouncy), spiders, vegetables (various), breakfast, cakes and removing ducks from soup.

Filled with colour illustrations and packed with witty wordplay, silly rhymes and thought-provoking story poems, this collection will delight children of all ages.

## The B on Your Thumb: 60 Rhymes to Boost Reading and Spelling

Colette Hiller, illustrated by Tor Freeman, *Frances Lincoln Children's Books*, £9.99

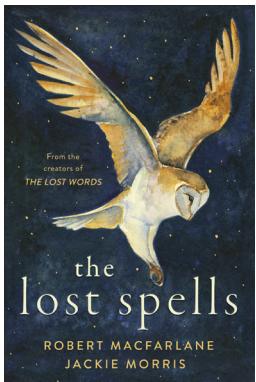


*The B on Your Thumb* is a book of 60 hilariously illustrated rhymes and delightful ditties to boost early reading – each poem teaches a specific sound, spelling or rule. Using rhythm and wordplay, they promote phonics awareness, thinking skills and literacy. But most of all, this book delights young readers with the fun and silliness of the English language.

An introduction instructs grown-ups how to use the book and extensive activities at the end allow children to build on their learning. Grouped into three categories – sounds, silent letters and secrets, and words that sound the same – the poems include: See with Two Ees, The Story of Q and U, Ridiculous Ph, Enough of Uff and Which Witch. Learning to read has never been so much fun.

## The Lost Spells

Robert Macfarlane, illustrated by Jackie Morris, Hamish Hamilton, £14.99



Kindred in spirit to *The Lost Words* but new in form, *The Lost Spells* is a pocket-sized treasure, a new collection of 'spells' – acrostic poetry and artwork – by beloved creative duo Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris.

Written to be read aloud, calling to forest, field, riverbank, ocean and to the heart, these 'spells' summon back what is often lost from sight and care, and inspire protection and action on behalf of the natural world. From Jay to Jackdaw, Oak to Barn Owl, Silver Birch to Grey Seal, they capture the special, individual spirit of each plant and creature. Above all, they celebrate a sense of wonder, bearing witness to nature's power to amaze, console and bring joy.

## Poems from a Green and Blue Planet

Edited by Sabrina Mahfouz, illustrated by Aaron Cushley, Hachette, £14.99

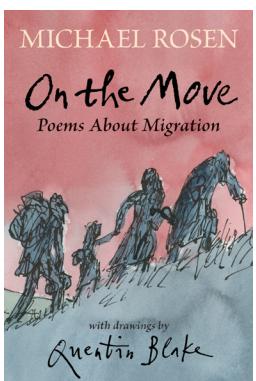


A **Guardian Children's Book of the Year 2019**

Dive into this book and be swept away on a journey around our green and blue planet, from the peak of the snowiest mountain top to the bottom of the deepest, bluest ocean. Meet the birds circling its skies, the beasts prowling its plains, and the people toiling in its fields, forests and cities... Explore all the worlds that make up ours, and hear the voices, past and present, that sing out from it. From haikus to sonnets, from rap to the Romantics, this joyous collection celebrates life in all corners of our beautiful planet. With new poems from Sabrina Mahfouz, Raymond Antrobus, Mona Arshi, Kate Tempest, Hollie McNish, Dean Atta and many more.

## On the Move: Poems About Migration

Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake, Walker Books, £9.99

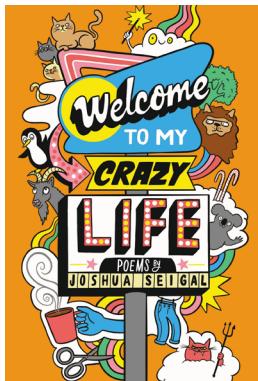


Michael Rosen and Sir Quentin Blake join forces for a landmark new collection, focusing on migration and displacement.

Michael's poems are divided into four: in the first series, he draws on his childhood as part of a first-generation Polish family living in London; in the second, on his perception of the War as a young boy; in the third, on his 'missing' relatives and the Holocaust; and in the fourth, and final, on global experiences of migration. Charming, shocking and heart-breaking, this is an anthology with a story to tell and a powerful point to make: 'You can only do something now.'

## Welcome to My Crazy Life

Joshua Seigal, illustrated by Chris Piascik, Bloomsbury Education, £5.99

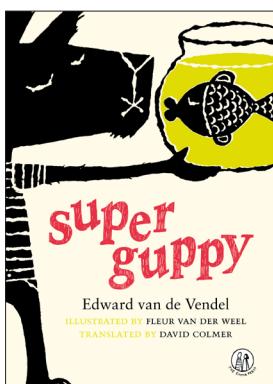


A brilliant new collection of poems by Joshua Seigal, winner of the Laugh Out Loud Awards – the UK's only prize for funny children's books.

With poems on every topic from demon cats to why you should NEVER forget your trousers, this is a must-have new collection from the prize-winning poet. This book is a wonderful mix of subversive humour and brilliant insight into children's perspectives on the world.

## Super Guppy: Poems for Children

Edward van de Vendel, illustrated by Fleur van der Weel, The Emma Press, £10.00

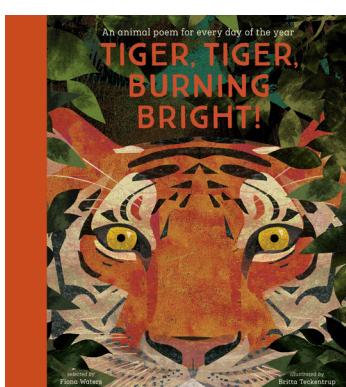


Have you ever had a pet? Or have you ever stopped to look at all of the small things in your home that make up your life? From wet socks to being tucked into bed at night, and strongly featuring one inspiring guppy fish with real staying power – *Super Guppy* stays close to home, but it's a home full of fun, jokes and surprising adventure.

A funny, contemporary collection that will appeal to curious children who have questions about how the world, and everything in it, works. These poems confront the growing pains that every child has to face with good humour and the message that we can learn from our mistakes. Featuring a number of writing prompts to get children working on their own poems.

## TIGER, TIGER, BURNING BRIGHT!: An Animal Poem for Every Day of the Year

Edited by Fiona Waters, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup, Nosy Crow, £25.00



This lavishly illustrated collection of 366 animal poems – one for every day of the year – ranges from unforgettable classics to contemporary works from around the world, including poetry in translation.

The spectacular range of poems includes work by Michael Rosen, Roger McGough, Carol Ann Duffy, William Blake, Dick King-Smith, Ted Hughes, Grace Nichols, Lewis Carroll, Christina Rossetti and Emily Dickinson.

Britta Teckentrup's breathtaking illustrations bring together all the richness and wonder of the animal kingdom, making this anthology a perfect gift that will be treasured by generations.