

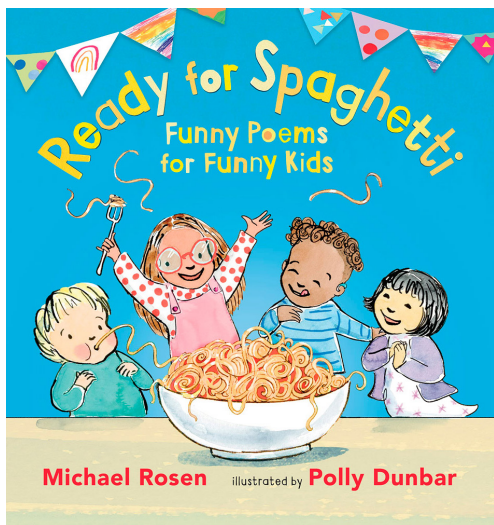
Book reviews

Ready for Spaghetti

Michael Rosen (author) & Polly Dunbar (illustrator)

Walker Books (Hardcover £14.99)

'Ready for Spaghetti: Funny Poems for Funny Kids' is everything we have come to expect from the ever-popular Michael Rosen. His unique insight into the way young children view the world is brought to the fore in this wonderful compilation of poems taking the reader through the various aspects of a child's day.



From the first poem which starts in the morning, we experience the joy and enthusiasm of all the experiences a young child has over the course of a day. From the lively waking *up, up, uppity-up* to start the day, to the chaos of mealtimes and being *all setti for spaghetti*, playing outside and finally the hush at bedtime, these poems are sure to captivate children and adults alike. Sharing these, and being guided through the idyllic events of the day in hilarious rhyme and delightful illustrations, is a simply lovely experience you would want for every child.

Polly Dunbar's illustrations are gentle and careful, depicting every emotion a child may feel as they enjoy their day, and complementing the words beautifully. The icing on the cake would be listening to Michael Rosen as he reads some of the poems on YouTube. You just have to listen to Michael reading 'The Sneeze'.

Over to you!

Roger McGough (author) & Jennifer Naalchigar (illustrator)

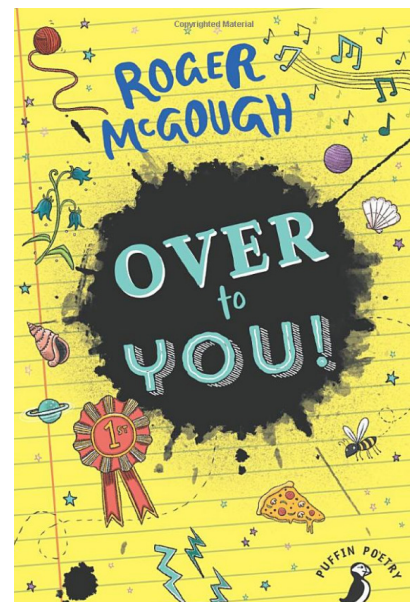
Penguin (Paperback £7.99)

This poetry book is a hoot! The first few poems are cleverly written as if the author is struggling to come up with a poem (as if, indeed!). The character of a teacher provides regular guidance and the poems themselves, with distinctive voices depending on where they are in the pecking order, have something to say as well – the first poem cries '*Enough! Stop! Stop!*' and makes the poet promise not to write a second.

There is learning sneaked in with explanations for poetic forms and terms, e.g. the explanation of a simile, and then it's 'Over to you!' and we are treated to animals with aspirations: the rhinoceros who dreams of becoming an airline pilot; the cat who dreams of becoming a racing driver, the wasp who speaks out in defence of its actions, and so many more entertaining and thoughtful renditions.

Poem after poem had me laughing out loud. Roger McGough is a consummate wordsmith and his flair, skill and appeal to young readers (and old ones) are evident in spades in this collection. The closing poem reiterates that 'writing makes you feel better' – a message for everyone.

This is such a brilliant book and comes highly recommended. I could wax lyrical about the rest of the poems in this collection, but really – just buy it!



Bloomsbury (Paperback £7.99)



Packed with poems about friends, family, sadness, joy, hope and every other feeling you could think of, Matt guides us through our quest to find our place in the world. The cover quote on this magazine from Coleridge could not be more apt than for this young poet who uses ‘the best words in their best order’.

Gorgeous. Couldn't you just eat that off a spoon? And it even comes with a free bookmark!



CLPE is the National Poetry Centre for Primary Schools. Search our extensive bank of poems for children, poetry teaching resources, videos of poet performances and interviews to support the teaching of poetry.

<https://clpe.org.uk/poetry>



Book reviews

Catalysts – Poems for Writing

Pie Corbett (author)

Talk for Writing (Paperback £14.99)

‘This is the latest book from the Talk for Writing stable, and, like everything by Pie Corbett that I have ever devoured, taken advantage of, or stolen from, it does not disappoint.



Consider the number of articles and comments in this magazine and in the world of teaching, that assert that poetry is the road less travelled, the poor relation, the avoided area, and the part of the English curriculum that can be sadly neglected, often because of teachers' own lack of either knowledge or confidence. This handbook is the answer to any teacher's prayers for ideas and suggestions to teach poetry effectively.

The compilation is designed to provide plenty of opportunities to read and enjoy poems with children, and the need for this is a recurring message coming across loud and clear from all our article writers. The huge number (over 100) and variety of suggested poems are sure to include something that will appeal to everyone. The poems may also be used as an inspiration and a scaffold – a catalyst – for children to write their own poetry. There are instructions included for teaching a wide range of poems, but with the rider that instructions may be ignored, altered and developed to meet the needs of the children, a reflection of Pie's deep understanding of teaching.

The poems can be perused and selected at random, or deliberate choices can be made depending on the focus of the lessons. There is so much to draw upon, and the collection is abounding with poems that offer endless opportunities to explore the richness of language. In Pie's own words: 'The catalyst poem is a stepping-stone to independent writing.'

NATE Needs You!

Request for book reviewers

Please get in touch if you would like the opportunity to be one of NATE's book reviewers (and have your work published). You may have read and used a book in your own teaching or just liked reading it for pleasure! We can also send out new books to you for review.

I look forward to hearing from you.

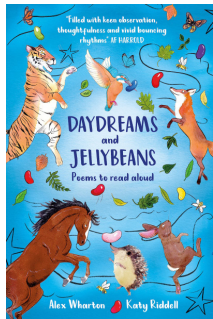
Janet Gough

Editor, *Primary Matters*

primary@nate.org.uk

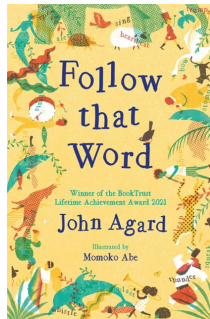
Top Ten poetry books

Selected by Wenda Davies, Coastlands CP School



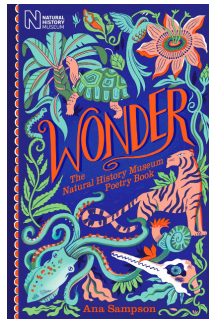
Daydreams and Jellybeans'
by Alex Wharton,
illustrated by Katy
Riddell

A lovely collection of warm, playful poetry. Full of rhythm and energy, these poems are ideal for reading aloud.



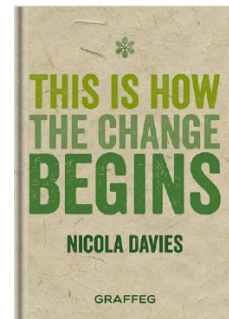
'Follow that Word'
by John Agard,
illustrated by Momoko
Abe

A wide range of entertaining poems, referencing fairy tales, myths, moments from history and more ordinary matters from everyday life and the natural world.



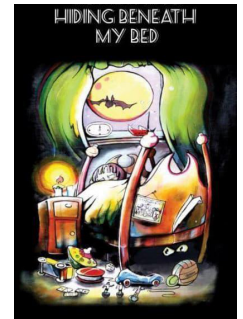
'Wonder: The Natural History Museum Poetry Book' chosen
by Ana Sampson

A marvellous anthology of classic and contemporary poems that provoke new ways of looking at nature and the world around us.



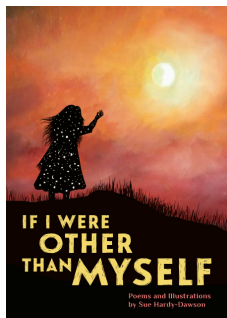
'This is How the Change Begins'
by Nicola Davies

A collection of six lyrical, thoughtprovoking poems relating to the climate crisis, reflecting on how humans are harming the planet, while at the same time offering hope for the future.



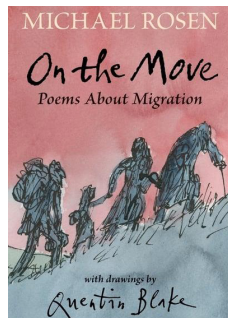
'Something Hiding Beneath my Bed'
by Brian Moses,
illustrated by
Patrick Coombes

An entertaining collection of poems about childhood and growing up. Deliciously relatable, these poems delight in everyday life.



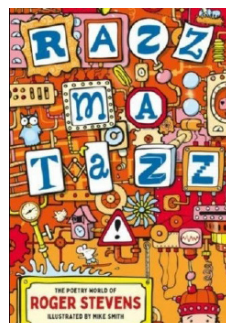
'If I Were Other Than Myself' by Sue Hardy-Dawson

A magical collection of dream-like poems that exult in wordplay and invention. Brimming with love for the natural world, so many of these poems are perfect for inspiring young poets to write their own poems.



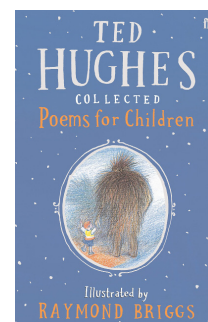
'On the Move: Poems about Migration'
by Michael Rosen,
illustrated by Quentin
Blake

A moving, insightful collection of poems relating to migration and displacement. A powerful book on an important theme.



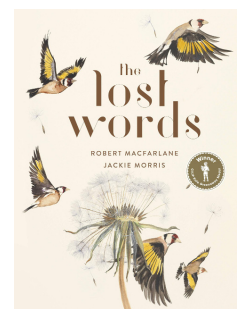
'Razzmatazz' by Roger
Stevens, illustrated by
Mike Smith

An inventive, quirky and warm-hearted collection of poems, enhanced by the poet's commentary about his poems plus advice for budding young poets.



'Ted Hughes Collected Poems for Children', illustrated
by Raymond Briggs

Ranging from witty and quirky, to more serious and thought-provoking, this is a classic collection of poems that should be in every ks2 classroom.

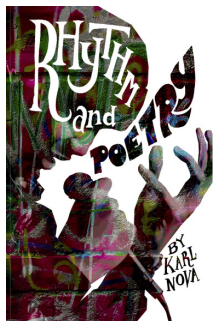


'The Lost Words'
poems by Robert
Macfarlane,
illustrations by Jackie
Morris

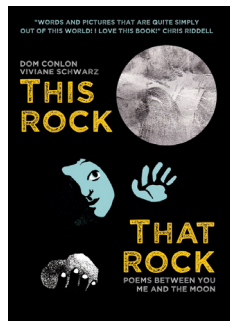
A stunning collection of inventive acrostic poems that celebrate the natural world, Jackie Morris' illustrations delight at every turn. A wonderful book.

Top Ten poetry books for Key Stage 2

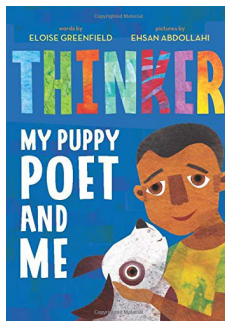
Selected by Jon Biddle, Moorland CE Primary Academy



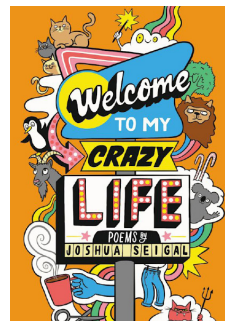
Rhythm and Poetry
Karl Nova



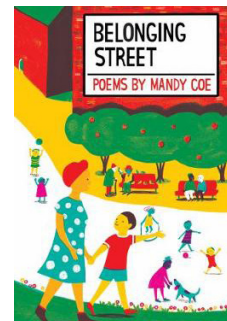
This Rock, That Rock
Dom Conlon



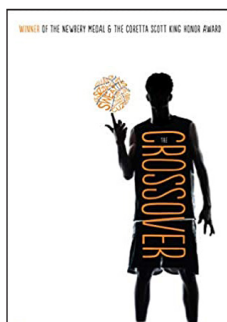
Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me
Eloise Greenfield



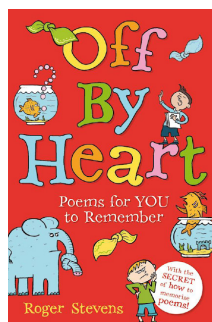
Welcome to my Crazy Life
Joshua Seigal



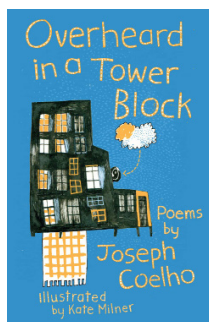
Belonging Street
Mandy Coe



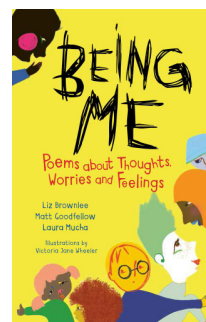
Crossover
Kwame Alexander



Off by Heart
Roger Stevens



Overheard in a Tower Block
Joseph Coelho



Being Me
Liz Brownlee,
Matt Goodfellow
& Laura Mucha



Stars with Flaming Tails
Valerie Bloom

CALLING ALL TEACHERS OF POETRY

POETRY TEACHING - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE - A NATIONAL SURVEY

Have your say on:

- the joys and challenges of teaching poetry
- how young people's lives can be enriched by their experience of poetry
- the changes you would like to see

Complete the survey @ bit.ly/poetry-survey-2022



THE POETRY SOCIETY

POETRY BY HEART



The English teaching community, including NATE, Poetry By Heart, The Poetry Archive, The Poetry Society, National Poetry Day, The English Association and The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, believes that the lives of young people can be enriched by their experience of poetry, within and beyond the classroom.

We are keen to get the views of classroom practitioners at all key stages (and levels of experience) on their experience of poetry from the perspective of a learner and teacher.

The aim of this survey is to raise the profile of poetry teaching, share good practice and explore some of the challenges that young people and teachers face. We plan to publish the findings of this survey later in 2022. As a thank you for your time, your name will go into draw to win a set of the 2021 CLIPPA shortlisted texts.

Please visit: bit.ly/poetry-survey-2022. Thank you in advance for your time.