

The Reading Agency October Booklist for Children & Young People Perfect Poetry

Celebrate National Poetry Day on 7 October 2021 – and every day! – with this fantastic selection of poetry collections, anthologies and verse novels for all ages.

***Everybody Has Feelings* by Jon Burgerman (Oxford University Press)**

ISBN: 9780192766045

With fun characters and eye-popping artwork, Jon Burgerman's entertaining book introduces over twenty feelings, putting each one in relatable context and providing young children with the vocabulary they need to talk about feelings.

***Take Off Your Brave: Poems Just for You* by Nadim, illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail (Usborne)**

ISBN: 9781406399707

The poems in this book beautifully capture how a four-year-old sees the world. By turns funny and charming, gentle and zany, *Take Off Your Brave* shows that poetry is for everyone – no matter how little you are!

***The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems* by June Crebbin (Puffin)**

ISBN: 9780141308982

A great first poetry book spanning time, from Robert Louis Stevenson and Walter de la Mare right up to date with Roger McGough and Michael Rosen. Themes covered, such as mealtimes, playtime, animals, family and bedtime, really appeal to young readers.

***Freedom, We Sing* by Amyra Leon, illustrated by Molly Mendoza (Flying Eye Books)**

ISBN: 9781912497324

As powerful as it is beautiful, *Freedom, We Sing* is a lyrical picture book designed to inspire and give hope to readers around the world.

***My Village: Rhymes from Around the World*, edited by Danielle Wright, illustrated by Mique Moriuchi (Gecko Press)**

ISBN: 9781877467103

Here you'll find glimpses of strange little tales about love and tapioca and whales. The nursery rhymes are written in English and in their native tongue side by side. The mixed media artwork by Mique Moriuchi works really well with a collection which in itself is a montage of tales, stories and songs in both time and location. One that can be read again and again at bedtime.

***Write Your Own Poems* by Jerome Martin, illustrated by Marco Bonatti and Toby Newsome (Usborne)**

ISBN: 9781474950879

Whether you want to dash off a limerick, ponder a sonnet or plot an epic poem, this write-in activity book is here to help. Each page is bursting with tips and inspiration for writing all kinds of poems – and inventing brand new styles too.

***The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Andersen Press)**

ISBN: 9781783449293

This is for the unforgettable. The unafraid. The undefeated. From *New York Times* bestselling-author Kwame Alexander comes this powerful and important ode to black history: the strength and bravery of everyday people and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest artists, athletes, and activists.

***Caribbean Dozen: Poems from Thirteen Caribbean Poets* edited by John Agard and Grace Nichols (Walker Books)**

ISBN: 9781406392852

Full of the amazing sights, sounds, smells and rhythms of Trinidad, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados and the Bahamas, this cornerstone anthology vividly evokes the childhood memories of thirteen poets (a Caribbean dozen!).

***Yapping Away: Poems* by Joshua Seigal, illustrated by Sarah Horne (Bloomsbury)**

ISBN: 9781472972743

Joshua Seigal, winner of the 2020 Laugh Out Loud Book Awards, brings his raucous humour, creativity and wit to another brilliant collection of poems. From hilarious to heartfelt poems – and everything in between – this collection offers something for everyone.

***50 Ways to Score a Goal and Other Football Poems* by Brian Bilston (Macmillan Children's Books)**

ISBN: 9781529058048

A funny collection of football poems by Brian Bilston, the unofficial Poet Laureate of Twitter. Perfect for football fans of all ages – from the young footie fanatic to a been-to-every-game-grandma, and every 'I could've been a pro' in between.

Young Adult

***SLAM! You're Gonna Wanna Hear This*, edited by Nikita Gill (Pan Macmillan Children's Books)**

ISBN: 9781529028300

With poets such as Raymond Antrobus, Sophia Thakur and Dean Atta guest starring alongside up-and-coming poets, this is the perfect introduction to world of modern poetry.

***The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann (Penguin Books)**

ISBN: 9780241411445

Natalie has just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world? A trailblazing new verse novel about two teenagers from opposite worlds; *The Crossing* is a profound story of hope, grief, and the very real tragedies of the refugee crisis.

***A Poet for Every Day of the Year* edited by Allie Esiri (Macmillan Children's Books)**

ISBN: 9781529054828

Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, *A Poet for Every Day of the Year* is bursting at the seams with familiar favourites and exciting new discoveries. William Wordsworth and Christina Rossetti sit alongside Leonard Cohen and Ocean Vuong.

***Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi, illustrated by Yusef Salaam (HarperCollins Children's Books)**

ISBN: 9780008422141

From award-winning, bestselling author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated Five comes a powerful YA novel in verse about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated. Perfect for fans of the *Noughts & Crosses* series and *The Hate U Give*.

***Cherry Cola* by Mara Nkere (Eyewear Publishing)**

ISBN: 9781913606831

Cherry Cola focuses on a girl and a boy's unfiltered relationship, giving a voice to both narratives and their individual internal struggles. The poetry centres around the journey of falling in love and its aftermath.