

## **The Reading Agency October Booklist for Adults**

### **Perfect Poetry**

**Celebrate National Poetry Day on 7 October 2021 – and every day! – with this fantastic selection of poetry collections, anthologies and song lyrics.**

***No, Love Is Not Dead: An Anthology of Love Poetry from Around the World* by Chris McCabe (John Murray)**

**ISBN: 9781529338522**

Including over 50 poets, this new anthology of poems about love features a diverse range of original poems written in a variety of languages - modern, ancient, endangered and constructed - accompanied by English translations and commentaries.

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

**ISBN: 9781509813131**

Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, *A Poem for Every Night of the Year* contains a full spectrum of poetry from familiar favourites to exciting contemporary voices. W. B. Yeats and Christina Rossetti sit alongside Carol Ann Duffy and Benjamin Zephaniah.

***The Craft of Poetry* by Lucy Newlyn (Yale University Press)**

**ISBN: 9780300251913**

A wonderfully accessible handbook to the art of writing and reading poetry—itsself written entirely in verse.

***Postcolonial Love Poem* by Natalie Diaz (Faber)**

**ISBN: 9780571359868**

Postcolonial Love Poem is a thunderous river of a book, an anthem of desire against erasure. It demands that every body carried in its pages - bodies of language, land, suffering brothers, enemies and lovers - be touched and held.

***A Fire in my Head* by Ben Okri (Head of Zeus)**

**ISBN: 9781800243002**

A powerful collection of new and recently completed poems by Ben Okri covering topics of the day, such as the refugee crisis, racism, Obama, the Grenfell Tower fire, and the Corona outbreak.

***Forever Words: The Unknown Poems* by Johnny Cash (Canongate)**

**ISBN: 9781786891969**

Since his first recordings in 1955, Johnny Cash has been an icon in the music world. In his newly discovered poems and song lyrics, we see the world through his eyes. The poetry reveals his depth of understanding, both of the world around him and within - his frailties and his strengths alike.

***Life Support: 100 Poems to Reach for on Dark Nights* by Julia Copus (Head of Zeus)**

**ISBN: 9781788542845**

These carefully selected poems will offer solace; provide an escape from the constant chatter of everyday thought and help make space for the unexpected. Some will be old favourites; others less well-known; all the poems will have the power to surprise or move.

***Pam Ayres on Animals* by Pam Ayres, illustrated by Ellie Snowdon (Ebury)**

**ISBN: 9781529104967**

A beautiful collection from beloved poet Pam Ayres, compiling her best verse dedicated to her love of animals, including brand new poems and illustrations.

***Evolution* by Eileen Myles (Atlantic Books)**

**ISBN: 9781611854978**

From walking around Marfa and New York City with an orange pit bull to Eileen's transcendent acceptance speech as President, *Evolution* lifts a can of Diet Coke as an End-of-the-World toast to embodiment, irreverence and risk.

***The Wild Fox of Yemen* by Threa Almontaser (Picador)**

**ISBN: 9781529078459**

A love letter to the country and people of Yemen, a portrait of young Muslim womanhood in New York after 9/11, and an extraordinarily composed examination of what it means to carry in the body the echoes of what came before, Almontaser sneaks artifacts to and from worlds, repurposing language and adapting to the space between cultures.

***Rotten Days in Late Summer* by Ralf Webb (Penguin Books)**

**ISBN: 9780141992730**

In *Rotten Days in Late Summer*, Ralf Webb turns poetry to an examination of the textures of class, youth, adulthood and death in the working communities of the West Country, from mobile home parks, boyish factory workers and saleswomen kept on the road for days at a time, to the yearnings of young love and the complexities of masculinity.

***Poor* by Caleb Femi (Penguin Press)**

**ISBN: 9780141992150**

In *Poor*, Caleb Femi combines poetry and original photography to explore the trials, tribulations, dreams and joys of young Black boys in twenty-first century Peckham. Above all, this is a tribute to the world that shaped a poet, and to the people forging difficult lives and finding magic within it.

***Auguries of a Minor God* by Nidhi Zakaria Eipe (Faber)**

**ISBN: 9780571365562**

Eipe's spellbinding debut poetry collection explores love and the wounds it makes. Its first half is composed of five sections, corresponding to the five arrows of Kama, the Hindu God of Love, Desire and Memory. The second is a long narrative poem, which follows a different kind of journey: a family of refugees who have fled to the West from conflict in an unspecified Middle Eastern country. It is a skilful and intimate account of migration and exile, of home and belonging.

***All The Names Given* by Raymond Antrobus (Picador)**

**ISBN: 9781529059502**

*All The Names Given* is punctuated with [Caption Poems] partially inspired by Deaf sound artist Christine Sun Kim, which attempt to fill in the silences and transitions between the poems, as well as moments inside and outside of them. Direct, open, formally sophisticated, *All The Names Given* breaks new ground both in form and content: the result is a timely, humane and tender book from one of the most important young poets of his generation.

***The Owl and the Pussycat and Other Nonsense Poetry* by Edward Lear (Bloomsbury)**

**ISBN: 9781847498229**

Long considered one of the nation's favourite poems, 'The Owl and the Pussycat' is combined here with other memorable examples of what Lear called "nonsense songs", such as 'Calico Pie' and 'The Duck and the Kangaroo', as well as with nonsense stories, cookery, botany and alphabets, in a collection that transports adults and children alike to the extraordinary world of Edward Lear's imagination.