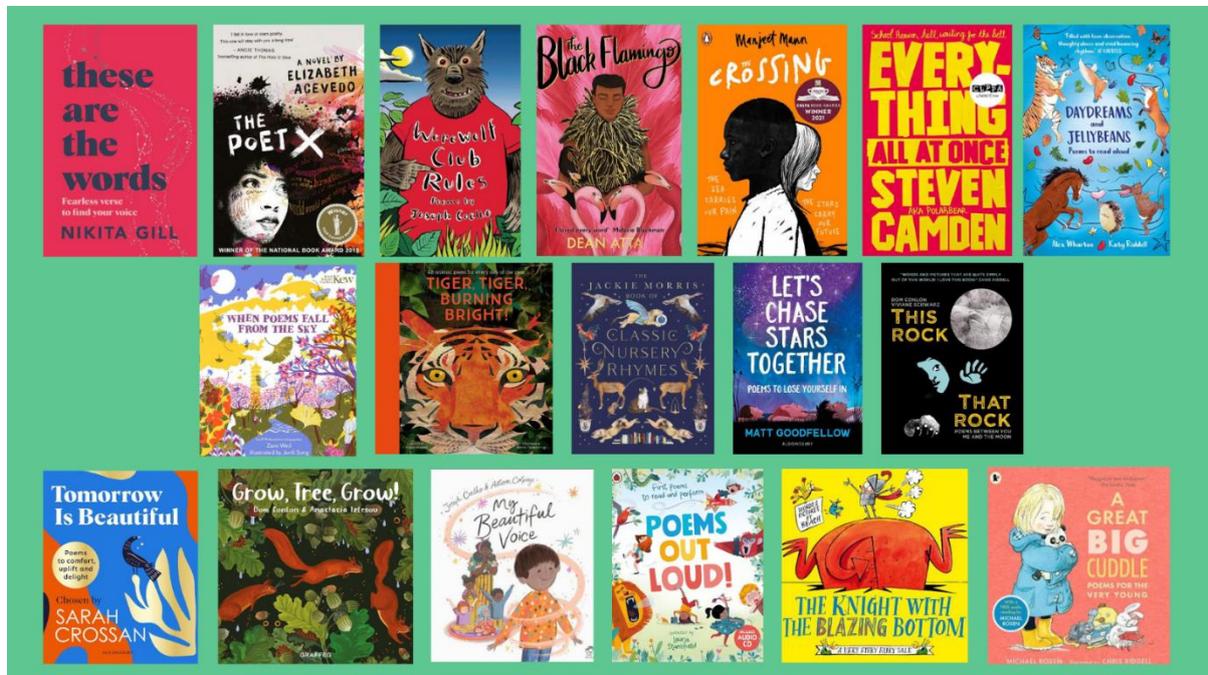


The Reading Agency's October booklist for Children and Young People – National Poetry Day



Celebrate National Poetry Day on 6 October and share the magic of poetry. Take inspiration this autumn with some of the best poetry writing and who knows, maybe you'll become inspired to write your own poem. Tell us what you thought of any of the books on the list by tagging us on social media using #booklist and tagging @readingagency!

Picture books and younger readers

***My Beautiful Voice* by Joseph Coelho with Ms. Allison Colpoys (Frances Lincoln Publishers), ISBN: 9780711248311**

A moving, lyrical picture book about a shy child unlocking the power of their own voice through poetry, with the helping hand of an extra special teacher, written by poet and playwright Joseph Coelho.

Allison Colpoys' gorgeous artwork spills from every page as she shows this most heart-warming of tales. Follow a child who is so shy she doesn't speak. With the encouragement of an enchanting and magical teacher, she writes a poem. But a poem is meant to be read aloud! She musters all her courage, stands at the front of the class and shows her classmates that she does have a voice. And her voice is BEAUTIFUL!

***The Jackie Morris Book of Classic Nursery Rhymes* by Jackie Morris (Otter-Barry Books), ISBN: 9781913074050**

A wonderfully illustrated and sumptuous collection of nursery rhymes for all ages, including many favourite rhymes as well as some that will be a delightful discovery. Originally published as *The Cat*



and the Fiddle in 2011, this edition includes a new introduction by Jackie Morris – a spirited defence of the nursery rhyme, which she fears is in danger of being forgotten in a digital world.

***Grow, Tree, Grow!* by Dom Conlon with Anastasia Izlesou (Graffeg), ISBN: 9781802580761**

Meet Oak, growing taller each year as he becomes a home for a hundred different species of insect and plants and, inch-by-inch, finds his place in a rich forest of trees.

Complete with a list of fascinating facts about different species of tree, this charming poetic picture book combines fiction and non-fiction to make a perfect educational resource for children whether at home or in the classroom

***Poems Out Loud!: First Poems to Read and Perform* by Ladybird with Laurie Stansfield (Penguin Random House Children's), ISBN: 9780241370704**

From rockets to mermaids and everything in between, there's something for everyone in this diverse and contemporary collection.

Perfect for young children aged 4+ who are approaching poetry for the very first time, these poems can be performed out loud, shared with others or simply read in your head. Featuring award-winning poets, brand new voices, hip-hop artists and spoken-word performers, this is a wonderfully fresh, diverse and relevant new anthology that will get children laughing, thinking, sharing and performing!

***The Knight With the Blazing Bottom* by Beach (Simon & Schuster), ISBN: 9781471197253**

Sir Wayne and Dragon are back! And on yet another adventure to get Dragon's flame round the right way... Luckily Wayne knows JUST what to do BUT! Is doing everything in reverse ALL day long really a good idea? And when the start to dress as each other, swapping EVERYTHING round, what on earth might happen?!

***A Great Big Cuddle: Poems for the Very Young* by Michael Rosen with Chris Riddell (Walker Books), ISBN: 9781406373462**

The poems in *A Great Big Cuddle* fizz off the page with sound and rhythm, energy and laughter, as Rosen captures in the most remarkable way what it means to be very, very young. A child's world with all its details and feelings – toys and games, animals and made-up creatures, likes and dislikes – is vividly conjured up in the most memorable, playful language, and Chris Riddell has produced some his most extraordinary pictures ever to bring this world to life.

Middle Grade

***Let's Chase Stars Together: Poems to lose yourself in* by Matt Goodfellow (Bloomsbury), ISBN: 9781472993847**

Perfectly reflecting the thoughts, feelings and imaginings of young people, these beautifully crafted poems are poignant, playful, heartfelt and hopeful. From friendship, family and separation to school experiences and fitting in, this moving collection touches on the relatable aspects of growing up. It

delicately balances emotion with light relief and humour, and is sure to captivate any young person aged 10 and above.

***Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright!* by Fiona Waters with Britta Teckentrup (Nosy Crow), ISBN: 9781788005678**

This lavishly illustrated gift book treasury 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 for children includes work by Roger McGough, William Blake, Dick King-Smith, Ted Hughes, Grace Nichols, Lewis Carroll, Christina Rossetti, Emily Dickinson. Britta Teckentrup's breath-taking illustrations bring together all the richness and wonder of the animal kingdom, making this poetry anthology a perfect gift that will be treasured by generations.

***When Poems Fall From the Sky* by Zaro Weil and Junli Song (Welbeck Publishing Group), ISBN: 9781803380605**

In this exquisite, fantastical and eye-popping anthology published in association with The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Mother Nature shares dazzling poems, hilarious rhymes, timeless story-poems and heart-warming little plays with us. From rapping fungi and magical seeds to flying wizards and ten quintillion parading bugs, every page bursts with colour, mystery and sheer delight of the natural world.

***This Rock, That Rock: Poems between you me and the moon* by Dom Conlon and Viviane Schwarz (Troika Books), ISBN: 9781909991927**

To celebrate 50 years since the first moon landing by Apollo 11 in 1969, here is an original collection of 50 poems. In his poems Dom tells us of two important things – the Moon is incredible: it controls our tides, to give us 24-hour days and it keeps our planet stable enough to have seasons. Dom reminds us that poetry too is incredible because it is the most flexible form of expressing ourselves and has been always how we used to tell stories, particularly about our ways of seeing this incredible Moon.

***Daydreams and Jellybeans* by Alex Wharton (Firefly Press), ISBN: 9781913102432**

From forgotten jellybeans to sparking daydreams, Alex's poems, written for primary school age children, are both funny and thoughtful, and aim to spark familiarity and inclusion. The illustrations from Katy Riddell focus on the fun and dreamlike quality of the poems' engagement with the natural world. These poems use rhyme, rhythm and free verse and are ideally suited to performance in a school setting, nurturing a love of language, reading, confidence and self-expression.

***Werewolf Club Rules!: and other poems* by Joseph Coelho (Frances Lincoln Publishers), ISBN: 9781847804525**

Find out the mysterious rules of Werewolf Club, how to look like a rainbow, what happens when puppies fall in love – and how to fold up your gran! This is an exciting debut poetry collection from a young poet who is already performing his work successfully at venues across the UK.



***These Are the Words: Fearless verse to find your voice* by Nikita Gill (Pan Macmillan), ISBN: 9781529083606**

Reclaim your agency. Discover your power. Find the words.

Taking you on a journey through the seasons of the soul, in this collection Nikita gives you the words to help heal from your first breakup, to celebrate finding your family, to understand first love, to express your anger and your joy, to fight for what you believe in and to help you break some rules to be your truest self.

***The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo (HarperCollins Publishers), ISBN: 9781405291460**

Xiomara has always kept her words to herself.

When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets – her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight. Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent.

***The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta (Hachette Children's), ISBN: 9781444948608**

This is not about being ready, it's not even about being fierce, or fearless, it's about being free.

Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels.

One more step will see him illuminated by spotlight.

He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours...

Can he emerge as The Black Flamingo?

***The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann (Penguin Random House Children's), ISBN: 9780241411445**

Natalie's world is falling apart. She's just lost her mum and her brother marches the streets of Dover full of hate and anger. Swimming is her only refuge.

Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes on his journey is a step into an unknown and unwelcoming future.

A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world?

***Tomorrow Is Beautiful* by Sarah Crossan (Bloomsbury), ISBN: 9781526641892**

Sometimes it's hard to find the right words. This poetry anthology provides the antidote, offering calm, hope and peace to all. Focusing on positivity, this is the perfect collection to dip into whenever you need a boost.

Containing a selection of classic poems from Langston Hughes, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson and Christina Rossetti, as well as contemporary poems chosen by Sarah Crossan – the go-to verse novelist in the UK – this beautiful book will lift your spirits time and time again.



***Everything All at Once* by Steve Camden (Pan Macmillan), ISBN: 9781509880034**

Zooming in across our cast of characters, we share moments that span everything from hoping to make it to the end of the week, facing it, fitting in, finding friends and falling out, to loving lessons, losing it, and worrying, wearing it well and worshipping from afar.

In *Everything All At Once*, Steven Camden's poems speak to the kaleidoscope of teen experience and life at secondary school.