

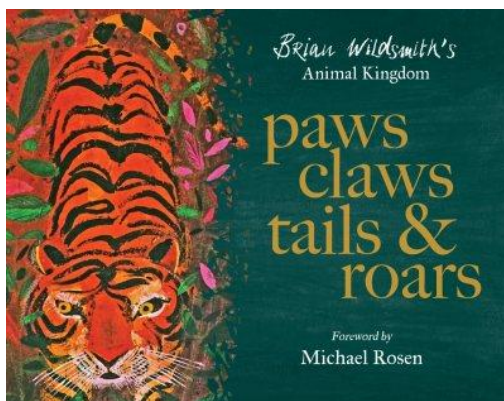
The Reading Agency's October booklist – Poetry



National Poetry Day (5 October) is a day to share, read and even write poetry. To celebrate, we've put together some of our favourite poetry finds. From poems that explore different cultures to poems that remind us of our communities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

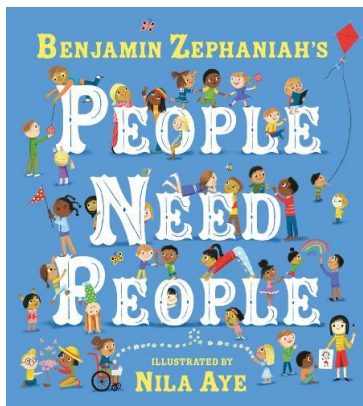
We would love to hear what books you'd recommend for the theme of poetry on social media using #booklist and tagging [@readingagency](#). You can see our past booklists [here](#).

Younger Children



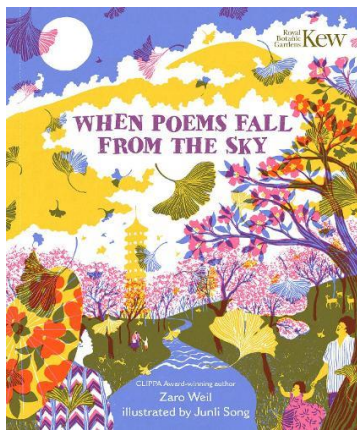
Paws, Claws, Tails & Roars by Brian Wildsmith, Oxford Childrens Books, ISBN: 978-0192784216 (Poetry)

Answer the call of the wild with this timeless, stunningly beautiful gift book from one of the world's finest illustrators, presented with a foreword from one of the shining stars of children's literature, Michael Rosen. Brian Wildsmith's breathtaking animal paintings are accompanied by new lyrical text, inviting readers to pause a while and linger over the glorious wild animals, birds, and fishes within. Whether already a fan of Brian Wildsmith, or discovering his work for the first time, readers will cherish this book for a lifetime.



People Need People by Benjamin Zephaniah, Hachette Children's Group, ISBN: 978-1408368169 (Poetry)

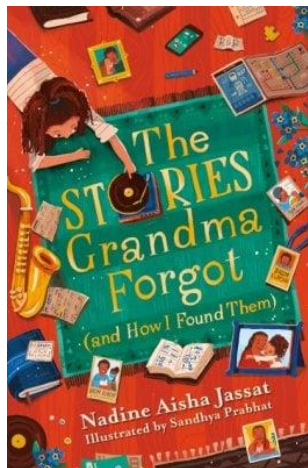
From the creators of *Nature Trail* comes an uplifting picture book about the power of people, and the importance of connecting with others. This timely poem reminds us all to be kind to one another.



When Poems Fall from the Sky by Zaro Weil, Welbeck, ISBN: 978-1803380605 (Poetry)

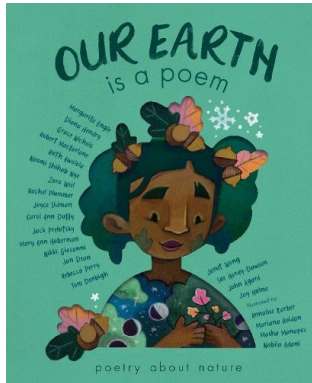
Original, inspiring and intimate, *When Poems Fall From the Sky* marries science and poetry to create a tender and thoughtful love-letter to Earth promising children a riot of imagination, humour and joy - the perfect book to celebrate National Poetry Day on 6th October. In exquisitely illustrated full-colour pages, trees, birds, animals, rivers, flowers, mountains and insects each share their own magical stories. And the stories they tell, the 'poems' that fall from the sky, subtly and powerfully illuminate our hope and collective role as guardians of our earth.

Nominated for the 2023 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing and the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration.



The Stories Grandma Forgot by Nadine Aisha Jassat, Hachette Children's Group, ISBN: 978-1510111578 (Poetry)

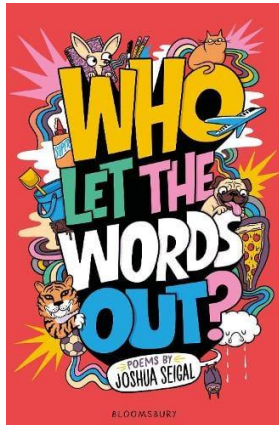
Twelve-year-old Nyla's dad died when she was four, or that's what she's been told. So when Grandma Farida insists she saw him in the supermarket, Nyla wonders if she is 'time-travelling' again - the phrase she uses when Grandma forgets. But when Grandma asks Nyla to find her dad and bring him home, Nyla promises that she will. As Nyla sets out on her journey, she hopes that uncovering the past will help her to understand the mystery at the heart of her family ... and to work out who she is.



Our Earth is a Poem by various authors, Little Tiger, ISBN: 978-1838915551 (Poetry)

This is a book of poetry for everyone. Inside is a treasure trove of writing celebrating the natural world. Read the poems aloud or curl up with them in a quiet corner. Begin your journey into a lifelong love of poetry. This beautifully illustrated collection features powerful poems written by a wide range of contemporary voices. They share their unique perspectives on the topic of nature, from a dreaming forest and bouquets of buried stars to rivers that dance

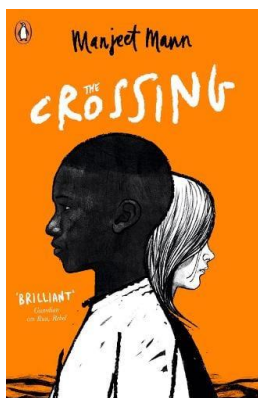
with rocks and the brushed lava fur of the mountain gorilla. Showcasing original poems alongside existing works, this is a book to share and treasure forever.



Who Let the Words Out by Joshua Seigal, Bloomsbury Education, ISBN: 978-1801992091 (Poetry)

In this brand new collection of poems words take on a whole new meaning; enter a world of creative word play with silly, funny and downright hilarious poems! With poems about cuddling tigers, pesky pet fleas and even what to do if your teacher is ever turned into a chicken, Who Let the Words Out? is a must-have for imaginative young readers aged 7+. Joshua Seigal is a two-time-winner of the Laugh Out Loud awards (also known as the Lollies) in 2020 with I Bet I Can Make You Laugh and in 2023 with Yapping Away.

Older Children



The Crossing by Manjeet Mann, Penguin Random House Children's UK, ISBN: 978-0241411445 (Poetry)

A trailblazing new 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. 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?

Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2021

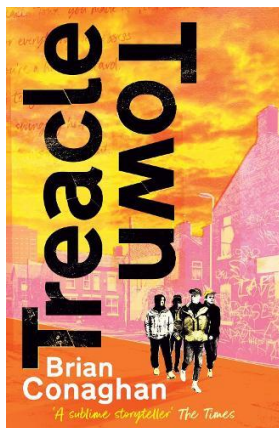


Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam, HarperCollins, ISBN: 978-0008422141 (Poetry)

One fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighbourhood escalates into tragedy. 'Boys just being boys' turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal Shahid's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it? With spellbinding lyricism, award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam tell a moving and deeply profound

story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth, in a system designed to strip him of both.

Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2022

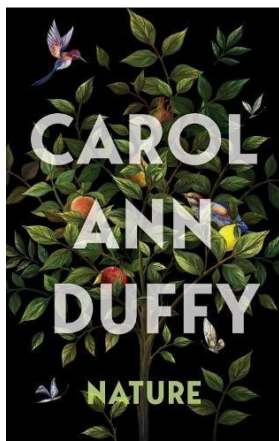


Treacle Town by Brian Conaghan, Andersen Press, ISBN: 978-1839133619 (Poetry)

Con O'Neill is stuck in a world of brutal gang violence, sectarian vendettas and personal tragedy. The lack of opportunities for him and the rest of his gang is all too apparent. No money. No prospects. A social design that entraps inhabitants of Treacle Towns up and down the country. Connor is desperate to get away, to find another life where he can experience happiness and fulfilment. When he stumbles upon the new world of slam poetry, Con senses a glimmer of hope - a hope that might just lead to his escape from Treacle Town. But it

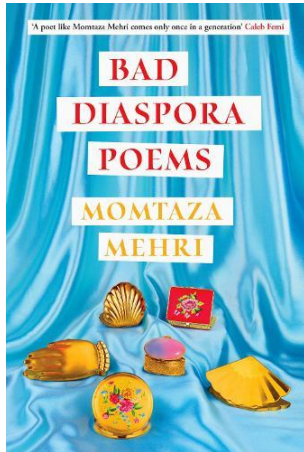
won't be easy..

Adults



Nature by Carol Ann Duffy, Picador, ISBN: 978-1529096941 (Poetry)

One of the English language's best-loved living poets, in Nature Carol Ann Duffy presents us with her favourites among her poems on the natural world. Drawing on work written over four decades and arranged chronologically, Duffy also adds to her selection one wholly new poem.

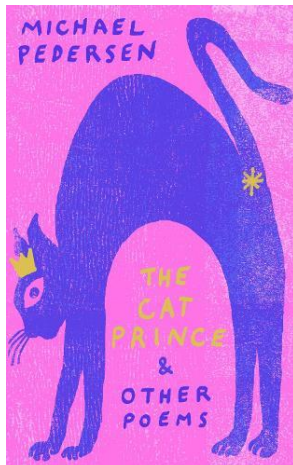


Bad Diaspora Poems by Momtaza Mehri, Vintage, ISBN: 978-1787334373 (Poetry)

The definition of diaspora is the dispersion of people from their original homeland. But what does it mean to write diaspora poetry? Momtaza Mehri's debut collection poses this question, taking us from Mogadishu to Naples, Lampedusa to London. Mixing her own family's experience with the stories of many others across nineteenth- and twentieth-century Somalia, *Bad Diaspora Poems* confronts the ambivalent nature of speaking for those who have been left behind.

We meet the poet, the translator, the refugee, the exile, and the diaspora kid attempting to transcend their clichéd angst. Told in lyric, prose and text messages, and taking place in living rooms and marketplaces, on buses and balconies, on transatlantic journeys and online, these are essential poems about our diasporic age.

Shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection 2023



The Cat Prince: & Other Poems by Michael Pedersen, Little, Brown, ISBN: 978-1472156884 (Poetry)

All moggy moxie, Pedersen croons to the beauty and devastation of love, loss, friendship, cats and careless joy.

Equal parts tender and trenchant, raw and ribald, plangent and smutty, these poems exhibit an emotionally charged, fantastical playground of language and lore. From the brutalising death of a cherished friend comes a gut-wrenching grief. And so begins a tenacious quest for light, lustre and survival as Pedersen pays tender tribute to a gorgeous, life-altering friendship. In doing so, he harks back to the hilarity of being young, reckless and petrified: memories of boys showboating in a fishing tackle shop, games of feline metamorphosis, laments for demolished buildings and a case of constipation of the most pernicious stock.

As frisky as it is fierce, *The Cat Prince* pounces around the poet's emotional and physical landscapes, past and present, unfanking a Scotland full of gothic splendour and nature's majesty.