

Carroll, Christina Rossetti, and William Wordsworth. With humour of all shades, ballads, poems of mystery, delicate tales of faery, songs of the sea and nature and people, jingles and limericks this is an excellent volume to kindle interest and delight in poetry for children in middle primary years. Attractively presented and illustrated throughout by a master artist. (SG)

There's An Awful Lot of Weirdos in our Neighbourhood
by Colin McNaughton
Walker Books, London 1994

With over sixty zany, nutty verses featuring some of the weirdest characters you're ever likely to meet and illustrated throughout in McNaughton's inimitable style, this is an irresistible collection for 7 - 10 year olds. Buy this and have fun with words. (SG)

Also: *Making Friends with Frankenstein*

The Little Dog Laughed and other Nursery Rhymes
Illustrated by Lucy Cousins
Macmillan, London 1989

A very lively and colourful collection of favourite nursery rhymes. Cousins uses a naive style with bold blocks of contrasting hues as a background to her marching, jumping, dancing characters. Very attractive. 0-6 years. (SG)

Brian Wildsmith Mother Goose
A Collection of Nursery Rhymes
Oxford University Press, 1984

Another favourite collection. Wildsmith's colourful whimsical illustrations are detailed and presented in a most imaginative way - there's plenty to explore and talk about here and children will want to return over and over again to favourite pages. 0-6 years. (SG)

17 Kings and 42 Elephants
by Margaret Mahy

Illustrated by Patricia MacCarthy
J.M. Dent & Sons, London 1987

A rumbling, rollicking journey set to an irresistible beat through mystical jungles in a far away land. Wonderful language illustrated with brilliant Batik paintings on silk. 0-8 years. (SG)

The Drover's Boy
by Ted Egan
Illustrated by Robert Ingpen
Lothian Books, Victoria 1997

A haunting picture book presentation of a ballad written as tribute to the many hundreds of Aboriginal women who were employed illegally as cattle drovers in Northern Australia in the early 1900s. 10 years +. (SG)

The Highwayman
by Alfred Noyes
Illustrated by Charles Keeping
Oxford University Press 1996

First published in 1981 and reprinted many times since, Charles Keeping's dramatic and exciting illustrations are a perfect complement to this haunting, unforgettable poem. 10 years + (SG)

Messages
Edited by Naomi Lewis
Illustrated by Brian Grimwood
Faber, London 1985

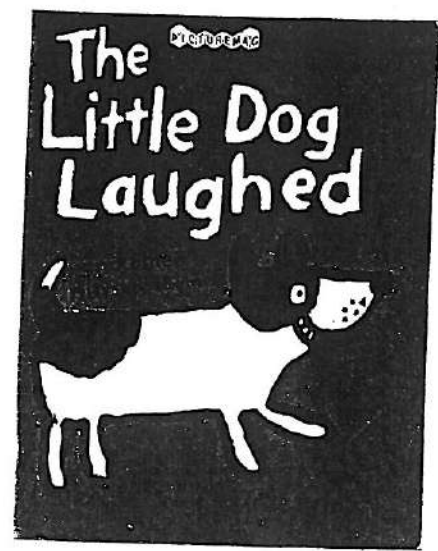
Naomi Lewis, well known as a writer and critic, has put together a

The Young Puffin Book of Verse
Compiled by Barbara Ireson
Illustrated by Gioia Fiammenghi
Penguin Books, Harmondsworth 1971

My favourite anthology for younger children, first published in 1970 and reprinted many times since. A lively collection of poems, verses, nursery rhymes and jingles about birds and bullfrogs, wind and waves, friends and relations, soldiers and sailors by writers like Edward Lear, Eleanor Farjeon and Walter de la Mare. Very inviting in its layout and use of illustration. 4 - 8yrs. (SG, HB)

Oxford Book of Poetry for Children
Compiled by Edward Blishen
Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith
Oxford University Press 1988.

An introduction to the richness and variety of English poetry for younger children featuring many well loved authors such as Lewis



collection of originality and depth. There are many new poems and even those by Wordsworth, Browning and Hardy are not the familiar few much anthologised elsewhere. Don't be put off by the unprepossessing cover - this volume has a contemporary, thought-provoking tone that makes poetry come alive for children aged 12 years +. (SG)

All My Own Stuff

Poems by Adrian Mitchell

Illustrated by Frances Lloyd

Simon and Schuster, Herts 1991

Adrian Mitchell's work is great for hooking contemporary kids onto poetry - it's witty, upbeat, mysterious and fun to read. This collection has the added bonus of fantastic illustrations that perfectly complement the verse. 7 years +. (SG)

Falling Up

Poems and drawings by Shel Silverstein

Harper Collins, New York 1996

Shel Silverstein writes with a crazy, over the top view of the world that most children adore, his wit and humour mirrored in the black and white drawings that are themselves masterpieces of the unexpected. A nice fat book that's easy to read.

7 - 12 years. (SG)

Also: *A Light in the Attic, Where the Sidewalk Ends.*

The New Oxford Book of Children's Verse

Edited by Neil Philip

Oxford University Press 1996

A lively anthology representing the ethnic and cultural diversity of contemporary writing for children varying from African-American and Aborigine to New Zealand, Scottish and Canadian. Arranged in historical sequence by the year of the poet's birth, familiar names such as Edward Lear, Christina Rossetti and Rudyard Kipling lead on to new generations: Charles

Causley, Ted Hughes, Roger McGough and many more. Lots of good material here. 10 years+. (SG)

The New Oxford Treasury of Children's Poems

Oxford University Press 1995

A collection of poems - a perfect introduction to the magic world of poetry. (BB & JS)

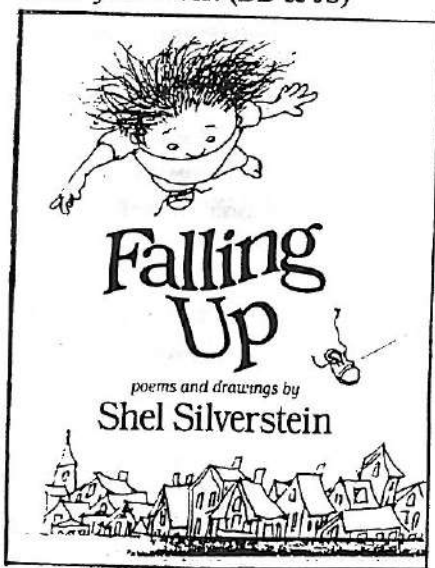
The Whispering Room Haunted Poems

Chosen by Gillian Clarke

Illustrated by Justin Todd

Kingfisher 1996

Poems filled with mystery and wonder, with words and images to make you shiver. (BB & JS)



A World of Poetry

Selected by Michael Rosen

Kingfisher 1991

Mysterious, funny, horrific, sad, wild, ugly, calm, wonderful. (BB & JS)

Early Years Poems and Rhymes

Compiled by Jill Bennett

Scholastic, reprinted 1996

A rich collection of poetry for young children. (BB & JS)

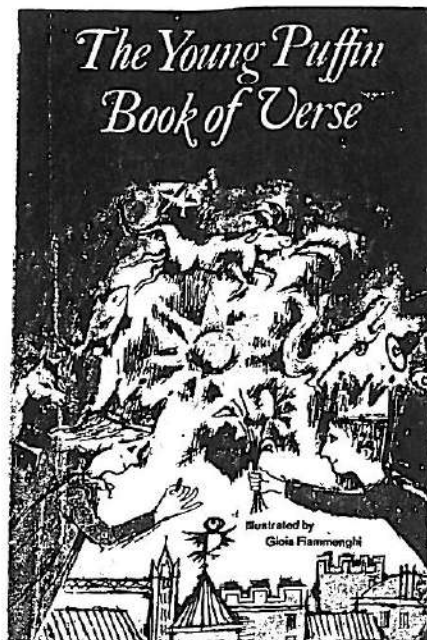
The Tin Can Band and Other Poems

by Margaret Mahy

Illustrated by Honey de Lacey

Dent & Sons Ltd. 1989

A selection of Mahy's most delightful and popular poems. (BB)



Pawprints in the Butter

by Joy Cowley & Friends

Mallinson Reed. 1991

A book for everyone who likes cats. (BB & JS)

Fly Away, Fly Away Over the Sea

by Christina Rossetti

Illustrated by Bernadette Watts

North-South Books, New York. 1991

A collection of poems about nature (BB & JS)

A Children's Garden of Verse

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Illustrated by Eric Kincaid

Brimax Books 1995

A famous collection of verse. (BB & JS)

Classic Poems to Read Aloud

Selected by James Berry

Kingfisher 1995

A classic anthology which parents and children love. (BB & JS)

Growltiger's Last Stand and Other Poems

by T.S. Eliot

Illustrated by Errol Le Cain

Faber & Faber 1986

This is a picture book full of delights for children and adults alike. (BB & JS)



The Puffin Baby and Toddler Treasury

Viking, London 1998

If a young child could have only one book this must be the one. Tom Kitten rubs shoulders with Spot, with Raymond Briggs' Snowman and the Three Billy Goats Gruff. Nursery rhymes and traditional tales are side-by-side with A.A. Milne and Shirley Hughes. Wherever possible stories are illustrated by the original artists and the whole book is beautifully designed and produced. (BG)

I'm Glad the Sky is Painted Blue

Poems for the Very Young

Selected by Rosalyn Barnett

Illustrated by Robyn Belton

Mallinson Rendel, Wellington 1993

A New Zealand choice which includes poems by James K Baxter, Ruth Dallas and Margaret Mahy supplemented by well-known overseas poets. The pictures are especially beautiful. (BG,RT)

A Barrel of Stories for 7-Year-Olds

Selected by Pat Thomson

Doubleday, London 1996

A very useful book for a notoriously difficult age group. Manageable bed-time story lengths by Dick King Smith, Joan Aiken, Phillippa Pearce and Michael

Rosen among others - humour being a notable ingredient. (BG)

Sun Days and Moon Nights

Selected by Rosalyn Barnett

Illustrated by Trish Bowles

Mallinson Rendel, Wellington 1994

New Zealand stories for 6 - 8 years olds, including ones by Ron Bacon, Margaret Mahy and James Norcliffe.

The Hutchinson Treasury of Children's Literature

Edited by Alison Sage

Hutchinson, London 1995

This book would delight an entire family. Divided into four sections according to age, the first has picture books reproduced with the original illustrations, the next includes stories such as *Old Bear* and *Mrs Tiggywinkle*. Section 3 is aimed at the 8 - 10 year olds, with extracts from the *The BFG* and from *Narnia*. Section 4 includes *The Secret Garden* and *The Wind in the Willows*. The whole forms a definitive selection of the best in children's literature. (BG,RT)



The Puffin New Zealand Storybook

Edited by Gwen Gawith

Puffin, Auckland 1996

This is an update of an earlier Storybook and is a zany collection suited to intermediate age readers featuring Judy Corballis, Tom

Bradley, Diana Noonan and Witi Ihimaera among others. (BG)

The Oxford Book of Story Poems

Selected by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark

Oxford University Press, New York 1990

This wonderful selection has all the story poems which seem to have disappeared from recent anthologies. Parents and grandparents will be delighted to see 'The Inchcape Rock', 'Sir Patrick Spens' and 'The Lady of Shallot' as well as 'The Listeners', 'The Highwayman' and many more favourites. Children will love these poems presented here in a large lavishly illustrated edition. (BG)

The Rattle Bag

Edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes

Faber, London 1982

A wonderful and surprising anthology for upper secondary level. Poems arranged in alphabetical order shock and delight by their juxtaposition. Who would expect Betjeman's 'Senex' next to Wilfred Owen's 'The Send-Off'? A real *Rattle Bag* but marvellously successful. (BG)

Bright Star Shining

Edited by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark

Oxford

Colour illustrations, hardbound. A collection of thirty two poems about Christmas, beginning with the Nativity and moving to more secular aspects of Christmas such as Christmas trees and Santa Claus. Its large picture book format makes it look like a book for younger children but it is suitable for all ages. (HB)

The Oxford Book of Animal Poems

Edited by Michael Harrison and Christopher Stuart-Clark.
Oxford

Colour illustrations, hardbound. This anthology begins with poems about ocean wildlife and then a selection about animals from around the world. Poets from each continent contribute poems about their own animals as well as a selection from traditional and modern poets. Twelve different artists have contributed to the illustrations. 8 years +. (HB)

MacMillan Treasury of Poetry for Children

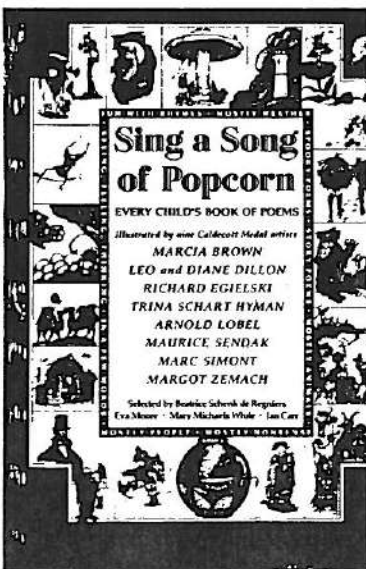
Foreword by Charles Causley
Macmillan 1997

Suitable for all ages as old favourites and ballads are included. Divided into categories. Lovely illustrations. (RT)

Puffin Book of Utterly Brilliant Poetry

Edited by Brian Patten
Penguin Group, 1988

Ten outstanding poets including Spike Milligan, Michael Rosen, Allan Ahlberg, and Kit Wright. There is an interview with each poet at the beginning of each section. Different illustrators bring variety to the book. (RT)



The Classic Treasury of Silly Poetry

Edited by Jane P Resnik
Illustrated by Joan Gallup
Running Press Books 1995
Ridiculous, funny, silly! Classic poets and contemporary, e.g. Rudyard Kipling, Edward Lear. Suitable for children with a sense of humour. (RT)

Anna - Growing Up on the Farm
by Gill Davies

Illustrated by Stewart Lees
Brimax Books 1998
Hardback, gorgeous illustrations, poem on one side of page, illustration opposite. Poems telling about life for Anna and brother Jack, on the farm, including changing seasons, and family. Suitable for all children. (RT)

For me, me, me

Poems for the very young
Selected by Dorothy Butler
Illustrated by Megan Gressor
Hodder & Stoughton Sydney (SM)

Listen to This

Compiled by Laura Cecil
Illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark
The Bodley Head, London 1987 (SM)

Tomie de Paola's Book of Poems

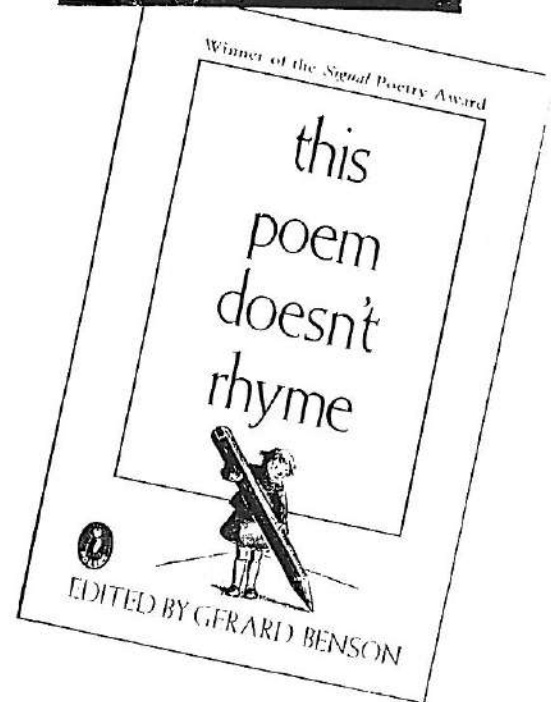
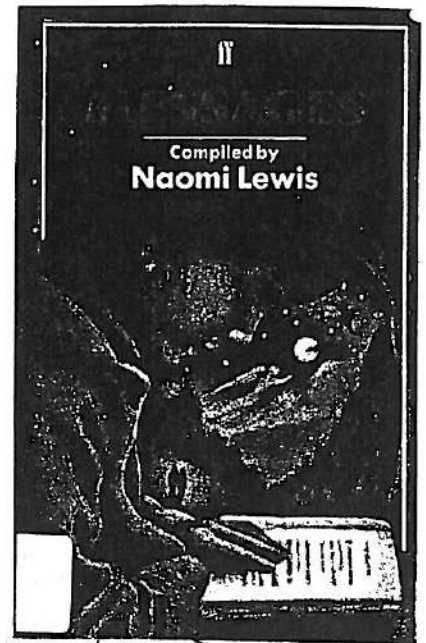
Selected and illustrated by Tomie de Paola
Methuen Children's Books Ltd
London 1989 (SM)

Something Zany, a crazy miscellany of poems, rhymes and stories

Compiled and illustrated by Gwen Gawith
Ashton Scholastic 1992 (SM)

The New Oxford Book of Poems

Chosen by Adrian Mitchell
Illustrated by Chloe Cheese
Orchard Books, London 1993 (SM)



Laura's Poems

by Laura ranger
Godwit Publishing Ltd, Auckland
1995 (SM)

A World of Poetry

Selected by Michael Rosen
Kingfisher. London 1991 (SM)
Sing a Song of Popcorn,
Every Child's Book of Poems
Selected by Beatrice Schenk de Regniers, Eva Moore, Mary Michaels White, Jan Carr
Illustrated by nine Caldecott Medal Artists (SM)
Scholastic Inc., New York, 1988

FOUR STEPS TO A POETIC CLASSROOM

A series of self assessment checklists as published in the guide *Poetry 0-16* by Morag Styles and Pat Triggs.

Step 1 How to become a P.E.T. (Poetry Enthusiast Teacher!)

1. Stop being afraid of poetry or believing it is boring.
2. Get to know and like poetry yourself.
3. Do your own 'poetry inventory' - how much have you already got in your head, rhymes, hymns, songs, jingles, odd lines or phrases?
4. Dip into **The Rattle Bag** (page 37) and find some things you like.
5. Have faith in your own intuitive response.
6. Browse in bookshops and libraries.
7. Read reviews - don't believe them all.
8. Start a twice-termly teachers group which meets to share ideas about poetry, read it to one another.
9. Talk about poetry with your colleagues.
10. Collaborate on poetry ventures with other teachers.
11. Hold an in-service day on poetry.
12. Press your adviser/inspector to put on some in-service.
13. Contact your Regional Arts Association's Literature Officer to find out what's on offer.
14. Be as interested, if not more interested, in the process of writing a poem as in the product.
15. Collect favourite poems as you go or make sure you can find them again when you want them.

Step 3 Check your poetry resources.

Are you using ...

1. Poems written long ago as well as yesterday?
2. Poems from many cultures, different voices?
3. Ballads and long narrative poems as well as haiku?
4. Rhyming poems as well as free verse?
5. Limericks, tanka, odes, cinquans, acrostics, sonnets, jokes, riddles?
6. The children's own store of poetry and rhyme - playground chants, TV jingles, songs?
7. Lots of poems by one poet (then another, then another)?
8. Illustrated poetry and talking about pictures in the mind?
9. Poems that can be worked on for choral speaking?

10. Mime, movement, drama, art, music as ways of responding to poetry?
11. Poetry across the curriculum where it seems appropriate - in music, in science, in history?

Step 2 Check what sort of environment for poetry you create.

Do you ...

1. Make sure you have at least six good poetry books in your book corner, including picture books?
2. Have poems as well as stories on tape for your listening centre?
3. Type and mount a different poem each week and display it prominently? Let the children choose as soon as they are interested.
4. Give children time for browsing among poetry books?
5. Give children time for quiet reading of poems?
6. Encourage children to read poems aloud to each other?
7. Make poetry tapes?
8. Encourage children to make poetry tapes?
9. Make class anthologies - by theme? illustrated? handwritten? illuminated? in BIG books? in miniature?
10. Let each child keep a special book for writing in favourite poems, including ones written by them and their friends?
11. Read aloud in class for pleasure at least one poem every day?
12. Read some poems twice? Most gain from a second reading.
13. Use joining-in rhymes before the daily story-time?
14. Re-read regularly favourite poems on request?
15. Use poems for handwriting practice?
16. Encourage children to 'perform' poems individually or in groups?
17. Share a poem, a book, a poet you like or have just discovered with children in your class?
18. Encourage learning by heart for the pleasure of it?
19. Have poetry in the school bookshop?

Step 4 Check your rating for developing poetry writing.

Do you ...

1. Encourage children to keep journals? Ideas can grow into poems.
2. Seize every opportunity to get children to observe, look closely and reflect/draw?
3. Offer children something concrete/particular to write about?
4. Encourage children to see their own experiences as material for poetry?
5. Stay alert for seizing the moment when an individual or a class is ready to write, or to hear a particular poem?
6. Resist 'teaching' figures of speech in sterile exercises - preferring to allow children to 'find' them in the poems you read and talk about?
7. Encourage children to muck about with language, engage in word play, use forms?
8. Use discussion time after writing poetry to talk naturally about techniques like rhyme, rhythm, repetition, imagery, as they emerge from the children's own writing?
9. Get children to share what they have written as part of the writing process and encourage redrafting?
10. Show children how 'real' poets draft, cross out, change their work?
11. Arrange for a poet to come into your classroom?
12. Refuse to 'mark' children's writing, preferring to respond, reply or share?
13. Encourage children to make their own poetry picture books?
14. Display children's poetry beautifully?
15. Let children see your writing too?
16. Get involved in poetry competitions?
17. Notice and encourage the connections between reading, listening to and writing poetry?