

Dinosaur Rhyme Time

Illustrated by Valentino Mendicino Faber & Faber £8.99 ISBN: 978-0571308330



A collection of favourite nursery rhymes with dinosaurs! The attractive illustrations depict a range of charmingly realised dinosaurs including a triceratops Doctor Foster encountering a rather large puddle and a tyrannosaurus gently relaxing as he rows his boat down a stream.

Babies and toddlers will have fun with this new take on picturing these classic rhymes. A soft padded gift book which would make an ideal present – particularly for dinosaur-loving youngsters.

A Children's Year Foraging

Written by Reg Giddings Illustrated by Audrey Williams
Arthur H Stockwell Ltd £3.50 ISBN: 978-0722344088



The twelve individual verses provide an unusual approach to highlighting and reflecting upon the changes through the natural year. Each month is the time for discovering variety and interest in the countryside, particularly the pleasure to be had from foraging. The verses are simple in construction and invite the reader to go out and experience nature in their local area. They celebrate nature's bounty through such activities as making brooms from birch twigs and gathering meadowsweet to make a tasty drink. This would make a useful addition to a school project based on wild food resources.

Stars in Jars: New & Collected Poems

Written by Chrissie Gittins A & C Black £6.99 ISBN: 978-1408196939



Chrissie has been delighting readers with her clever and quirky poems for many years. This bumper collection of well over a hundred poems, consisting of some new verses and poems drawn from her three previous anthologies, is excellent value for money and makes stimulating reading. The poems range from playful wordplay such as can be found in 'Propagating Thyme' through close observational gems like 'A Memory of Snow' to the moving reflections of compositions like 'I Can't Fix Everything'. All the poems are made instantly accessible through their simple structures and catchy rhythms. Yet the fresh, imaginative quality of thought brings a further dimension that makes the reader want to experience the poems again and again.

Goldilocks on CCTV

Written by John Agard Illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura
Francis Lincoln £8.99 ISBN: 978-1847804990



A welcome paperback edition of the collection for which John Agard was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2012. Imagine your favourite fairytale characters transported to the 21st century along with their particular angsts and idiosyncrasies. Within this brilliantly conceived collection can be found a cool self-obsessed 'Puss-in-Trainners', the media frenzy surrounding 'Sleeping Beauty Awakes' and the credit card laying of 'The Golden Goose Talent Show'. Clever, funny and relevant; the poetry will appeal to a wide age range, with older children able to appreciate its satirical nature. All will enjoy the rhythmic mix of rap, rhyme and free verse which John accomplishes so well. A bonus is that each poem is strikingly illustrated in monochrome by Satoshi Kitamura who cannily captures the essence of the verse.



A Corner of a Foreign Field: The Illustrated Poetry of the First World War

Selected by Fiona Waters Atlantic World
£5.99 ISBN: 978-1909242050

The commemoration of the Great War has spurred several new collections of the inspiring poetry composed during such a terrible conflict, but this is one of the most interesting and accessible which make it ideal for an older child. Fiona Waters is an experienced anthologist, well known to the children's book world. Here she has gathered together a mixture of the familiar and the less so, with particular emphasis being placed on those who were left behind – namely women. The introductory essay provides an informative basis from which to proceed with reading the poetry. A striking aspect of the collection is the wonderful photographs taken from *The Daily Mail* archives. These capture important historic events that shaped the War alongside intimate portraits of individuals caught up in the horror of the situation, yet, as Fiona herself remarks, "relentlessly cheerful" in their outward demeanour. The attractive A4 magazine format and competitive price would make this an excellent prospect to purchase for a class set.

The Highwayman

Written by Alfred Noyes
Illustrated by Charles Keeping
Oxford University Press £7.99
ISBN: 978-0192794420



Charles Keeping is one of the most distinctive of twentieth century children's book illustrators. His work is memorable for the powerful images he creates which often depict quite complex ideas and emotions.

In the 1980s, Keeping illustrated three of the best loved poems in the English language which have now been published in new editions by Oxford University Press: *The Highwayman*, Alfred Noyes' dramatic narrative verse, *The Lady of Shalott*, Alfred Lord Tennyson's atmospheric romantic poem, voted the nation's number two favourite, and *Beowulf*, the Anglo-Saxon epic, retold by Kevin Crossley-Holland.

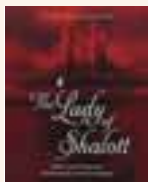
A student of drawing, etching and lithography, Keeping goes back to his roots with these three titles which are drawn in black and white using the wash and line technique. The illustrations are technically stunning and modern technology has allowed the original illustrations to be re-scanned giving the pages a superb clarity. For those who are familiar with these titles, you will notice the new bold, dramatic jacket designs.

The striking quality of these classic poems is such that they still offer excitement and intensity for today's young readers with Keeping's unique interpretation providing a marvellous way into the poetry.

Dave Chant

The Lady of Shalott

Written by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Illustrated by Charles Keeping
Oxford University Press £7.99
ISBN: 978-0192794437



Beowulf

Retold by Kevin Crossley-Holland
Illustrated by Charles Keeping
Oxford University Press £7.99
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