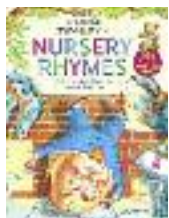


The Oxford Treasury of Nursery Rhymes

Compiled by Sarah Williams & Karen King Illustrated by Ian Beck
OUP £9.99 ISBN: 978-0192738660



From quiet-time lullabies to simple rhythmic action rhymes, this attractive compendium of nursery songs and rhymes contains over a hundred verses. Each is accompanied by a colourful and detailed illustration enabling the whole story of the rhyme to be contained in one striking composition. The two experienced anthologists include notes for keeping little ones involved in the rhymes which will prove helpful to

playgroup leaders and parents. Irresistible illustrations, clear instructions for hand activities and an extensive range of traditional and new rhymes – this is one ‘must-have’ anthology of nursery favourites.

Blue Balloon and Rabbit Ears

Written and illustrated by Hilda Offen
Troika £5.99 ISBN: 978-1909991033

The playful title perfectly captures the spirit of this delightful collection of original poems from an award-winning author and illustrator. The poems are arranged in four thematic sections – Wild Things, That’s Ridiculous, Out and About and Home Again – each containing a rich assortment of styles and content. Readily accessible through their strong adherence to rhythm and rhyme, the poems’ subject matter will appeal to a wide age range, making this a collection which children can return to for many years. Each poem is accompanied by an entertaining cluster of illustrations.



Dolphins Keep Me Safe In Dreams

Written and illustrated by Ed Boxall
Pearbox Press £6.00 ISBN: 978-1782803102

At bedtime, a young girl lies awake scared of the ghostly noises she can hear in the dark which are coming from her pillow. As the title suggests, this memorable picture book poem takes the child from

this state of sleepless anxiety to a feeling of well being, thanks to the comfort and protection of a pod of dolphins. The dreamscapes are vividly realised through the distinctive black and white textural illustrations and the descriptive verse lines which evoke a journey of magical possibilities, including sailing to “the junk yard Isle of Dritch/Where I lost my sock in a forest of doors.” A wonderful way to tackle the fear of going to sleep.

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat and the Turtles of Fun

Written by Matt Black (with Edward Lear) Illustrated by Pip Hall
Two Rivers Press £10.00 ISBN: 978-1909747036

Have you ever wondered why the Owl and the Pussy-cat set sail in their legendary pea-green boat? And did they dance by the light of the moon for ever? Lear’s entertaining nonsense poem is here sandwiched between a new Prequel and Sequel which extend the magical adventures of this unlikely couple as they encounter a host of extraordinary new characters. The additional poems cleverly capture the spirit and lyrical qualities of the original verse and heighten the pleasure of reading these poems aloud. The distinctive lino cut illustrations are appealing – a favourite is Pussy-cat lounging on a deckchair being entertained by a Turtle of Fun.



Werewolf Club Rules

Written by Joseph Coelho Illustrated by John O’Leary
Frances Lincoln £6.99 ISBN: 978-1847804525

This is performance poet Joseph Coelho’s debut collection and it is sure to get children giggling with his playful look at a host of entertaining subjects including such gems as ‘If all the world were paper’, ‘School

Tomorrow – excuses for Mum’ and ‘What do Monkeys do?’ The poems turn the ordinary into the extraordinary which besides their ability to raise a laugh will also provoke more than a pause or two for thought. This is a strong and imaginative collection which will entice young readers with its lovely bold cover illustration.

A is Amazing! Poems about Feelings

Edited by Wendy Cooling Illustrated by Piet Grobler
Frances Lincoln £8.99 ISBN: 978-1847805133

An original and refreshing approach to a poetry compilation with the poems arranged alphabetically according to emotions and feelings. The thirty three poems cover some familiar sensations such as joy and sadness, but also a more unusual frame of mind. Unpredictable is represented by Grace Nichols’ playful Sun is Laughing and Nostalgic, by the amusingly wistful Ode to My Oldest Best Shoes, from Kwame Dawes. There is an impressive range of poets gathered here; culturally diverse, with some lesser known as well as established names. The picture book format perfectly showcases the gorgeous illustrations. Shortlisted for the CLPE Poetry Award 2013, this is a lovely book.



New and Collected Poems for Children

Written by Carol Ann Duffy Illustrated by Alice Stevenson
Faber & Faber (R) £16.99 ISBN: 978-0571318193

A new edition of this fine poetry anthology which brings together poems from four award-winning collections plus some additional compositions. Rather than arranged into thematic sections, each poem is loosely connected to the next thus creating an interesting thread through the poetry. The poems depict the world through a child’s eyes, conjuring up the fantastic and the ridiculous and incorporating some inventive characters and lively voices. In contrast to the many humorous verses, there are some reflective poems which display an instinctive understanding of the qualities of childhood and its transient state. A collection which contains something for everyone.

Alphabetabum: An Alphabet of Rare Photographs and Medium Verses

Written by Chris Raschka Photography collection from Vladimir Radunsky
Frances Lincoln £12.99 ISBN: 978-1590178171

An unusual, perhaps unique, concept; a stylish gift which resembles an old fashioned alphabet book containing a collection of vintage black-and-white photographic portraits of children, each accompanied by verse triplets. The featured children have entertaining alliterative names such as ‘Salty Shelby Scott’ and some memorable personalities to match. Often comical, the verses draw the reader into the world of the photograph, emphasising a look, an item of clothing or accessory. There are some further “unadorned” portraits for children to create their own character verses. Witty and weird!

