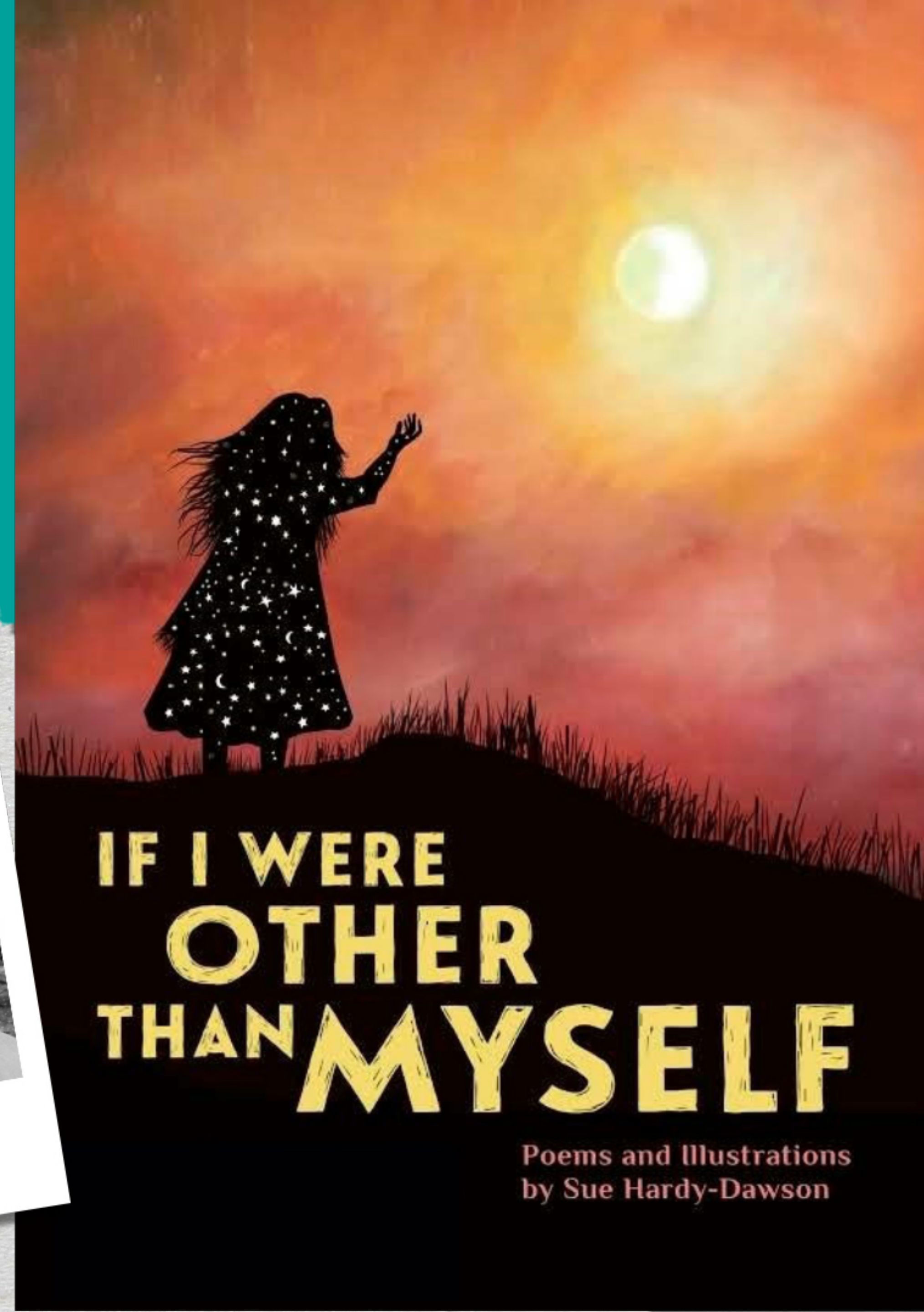


Getting the most from
If I Were Other Than Myself



troika



Magical wordplay and imagery from an award-winning, CLiPPA shortlisted poet

“If I Were Other Than Myself is a beautifully written, thought provoking collection by Sue Hardy-Dawson with illustrations from Sue’s own hand. Poems celebrate the beauty and fragility of nature, give insight into the human experience and take us into the realms of magic.”

—Charlotte Hacking
Centre for Literacy in Primary Education

About the author

Sue Hardy Dawson is a poet and illustrator. Her first solo collection ‘Where Zebras Go’ was shortlisted for the 2018 CLiPPA prize. Sue’s poems and teaching resources can be found on the CLPE website. Her second collection with poetry ambassadors, Roger Stevens and Liz Brownlee is shortlisted for the North Somerset Teachers Book Awards. A new solo collection ‘If I Were Other Than Myself’ with Troika is out now. Sue has a First Class Honours Degree. She loves to visit schools and do workshops. As a dyslexic poet, she also loves encouraging reluctant readers and writers.

“Here’s proof that children’s poetry can be sophisticated, clever, enigmatic, mysterious and graceful without being inaccessible. Over the top praise? Not at all! This elegantly written book, beautifully illustrated by the author, is full of interwoven stories guaranteed to inspire the reader’s imagination. Hardy-Dawson has the knack of capturing complex emotions in a few words – true poetry. It’s witty, wise and wonderful. I wish it had been published when I was young. I would have loved to grow up with it.”

Found Poem

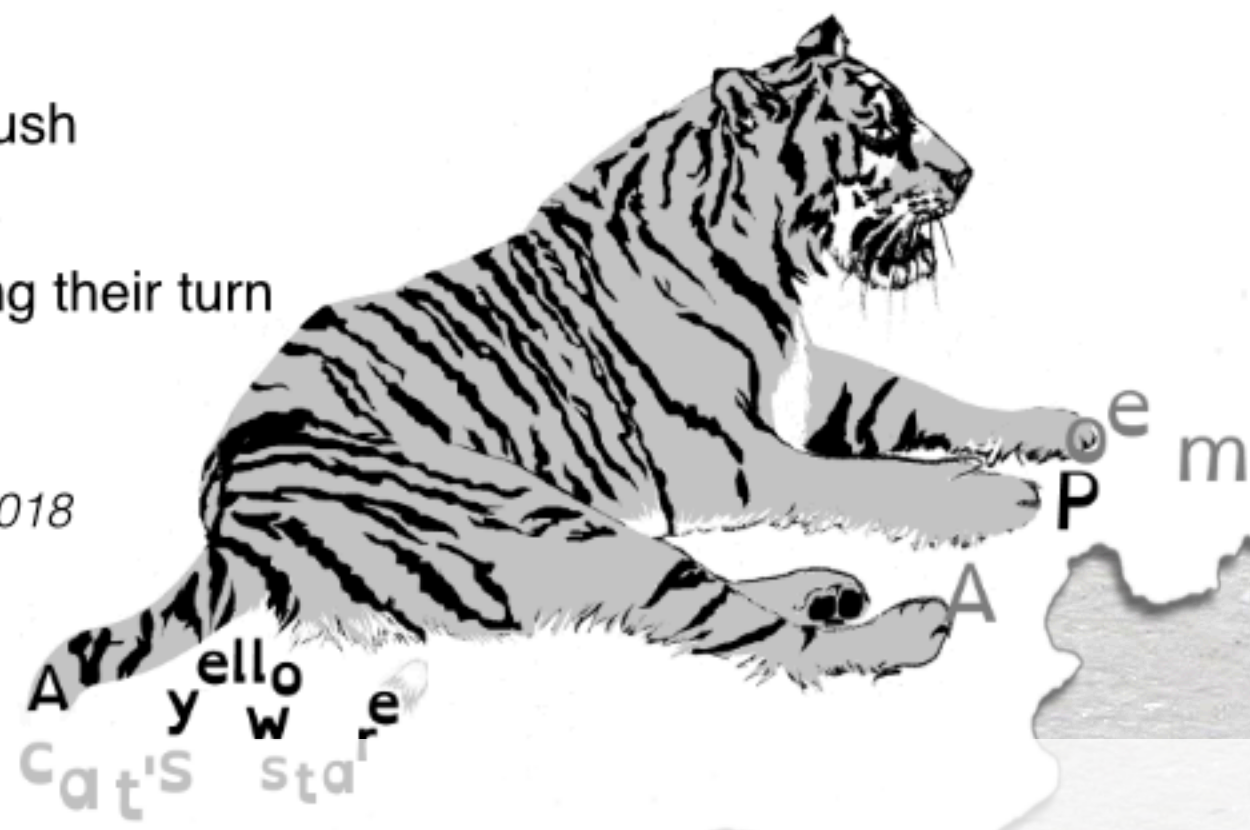
I found this poem
at the edge of dusk
where a jewelled beetle
kissed green bud
words -
a bird's heartbeat waiting to quicken
in a cat's yellow stare
I found this poem

I found this poem
beneath wall and streetlamp
along the long shadows
of riverbank
words -
tumbling out from rhythms of dark
in an otter's mud lair
I found this poem

I found this poem
in a fragment of shell
on a footprint of silver
left by a snail
words -
written by moth whilst under moon's spell
in a fallen tree's prayer
I found this poem

I found this poem
at the edge of dawn
where light took a brush
to the grey lawn
words -
yet unspoken awaiting their turn
in a silence I hear
I found this poem

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Say it

This is a soft and dreamy sort of poem, when performing it give it plenty of time there are a lot of images in it, allow them to unroll gently. It would work equally well as a poem for more than one voice, perhaps one person per verse.

Talk about it

The title Found Poem is a play on words, there is a kind of poem that is made up of words found somewhere else, such as a newspaper, words on a sign or in a book. In the poem I have played with the idea of finding poems in lots of different places. Discuss places you might find a poem, they can be dreamy, magical, funny or even sad. Wherever you like.

Write it

Write a list of places you might find a poem, you could do this either as a class to magpie later, in groups or individually. Choose a couple of your best ideas for each of your verses. Because this is a poem that can work in any order you can experiment with moving the ideas around and see if you can make it rhyme. Try writing more than one version with different moods.

WATCH & LISTEN

Sue Hardy-Dawson reads 'Found Poem' at www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyltUo4DtNA&t

If You Could Taste Music

If you could taste music
what flavour would it be?
Might whispers of waves
be salty or sweet?
Would a crash or a bang
be sharp as a lemon?
What if the tang of birdsong
lingered on the tongue?

If you could smell a rainbow
would its odour be faint
might the stars aroma
fill the sky with scent?
Could the tick of a clock
be the sniff of a sock?
What if some words went off?
Or smelt of wet dog?

If you could touch a dream
how would that feel?
Could wishes be warm
despair cold as steel?
Should shouting be lumpy
and questions be bumpy?
What if ideas felt watery
and lies all crumbly?

And if you could see time
how would that look?
A minute might be pale
some days quite black.
Does hope appear briefly?
What colour is poetry?
what if thoughts could be seen?
Well that might be
tricky.

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Lies



Say it

This poem has lots of onomatopoeia in (words that are the sounds they make: like crash! bang!). Also there are places where it whispers or gets louder, try to act out the poem, you could add sound effects or pull faces. Try performing it in different ways.

Talk about it

This poem is a nonsense poem, poems like this imagine impossible things. This one mixes up the senses, talk about things you can taste, smell or touch, and things you can't taste or can't touch. Discuss what things you can't taste might taste of, what things you can't touch might feel like.

Write it

In groups, pick some objects: eg. things you can see outside of the window or things in the classroom. For each object describe what it sounds, smells, tastes or feels like. Create some ideas for things you can't sense, what might the sky smell of what sound might a dandelion make? Use your best ones to make a poem.

Write five objects down one side. Leave a couple of lines between each, eg. A pen is, a door is, a flower is... Next to each object write a short description: eg. a mountain is a tall and stately giant. Cut the paper into strips and separate the descriptions from the objects and mix them up. The result should be an interesting and surprising nonsense poem.

WATCH & LISTEN

Sue Hardy-Dawson reads 'If You Could Taste Music' at www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4wnubwLzMO

We hope you enjoy exploring this resource

If you use these ideas, we'd love to know how. Why not share your work with us by tagging [@TroikaBooks](https://twitter.com/TroikaBooks) on Twitter

This book can be purchased from www.troikabooks.com/if-i-were-other-than-myself



Find out more: www.troikabooks.com

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This resource is based on a model developed by Manchester Children's Book Festival and

Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University. Text: Sue Hardy-Dawson / Design: Dom Conlon.