

# troika 2024





## Splinters

Written by Rachel Delahaye

Publication 2024 | 978-1-912745-37-1 | Teen | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 336pp | Rights: World except Australia/NZ

Jean Sylvester is a typical, overthinking adolescent whose painful experience with parallel realities teaches her that while life involves her, it's not always all about her. She thinks life isn't fair and wishes hers was different. When she witnesses a traumatic accident, she can't help but blame herself for the events leading up to it. In order to be free of the nightmare she has a choice: she can spiral into despair or reconcile herself with the fact that terrible things happen, and some can't be changed.

**Splinters** is a story about so many things. It starts by looking at the change in our priorities as we move into our teenage years - our desperation for independence and happiness; our vulnerability to change; our misery when things don't turn out as we hoped. There are two things that let you down in life: high expectations and other people.

**Rachel Delahaye** was born in Australia but has lived in the UK since she was six years old. She lives in Bath and is married with two children and a dog called Rocket. Rachel's first book for Troika, **Day of the Whale**, was nominated for a Yoto Carnegie Medal for writing and her second book, **Electric Life**, published June 2023, has been long listed for a Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024.



## Jakub's Otter

Written by Coral Rumble

978-1-912745-33-3 | Age 8+ | PBK | £8.99  
198x129mm | 144pp | Rights: World

In her first work of fiction Coral tells the story of ten-year-old Jakub Polanski who cares for his single mum, Maria, who has multiple sclerosis. The weight of responsibility has made Jakub forget he is a child, and his life outside of school is full of adult concerns. Everyone is worried about Jakub's mental health. His life is tough. To take the pressure off his mum and give Jakub a break, life-long family friends, the Koniks, take Jakub on holiday to Italy. While there Jakub learns about Marta's passion for writing poetry and storytelling, and she shows him that freedom and adventure are there for the taking. He discovers he is funny and smart and is not only defined by being a carer. And, in Italy, Jakub finds hope as he listens to an old, wise woodsman, who teaches him about otters, especially one injured otter, called Piccolo.

**Coral Rumble** is one of our most popular poets, **Michael Rosen** has commented, 'Rumble has a dash and delight about her work'. Coral performs and gives workshops at art centres, museums, bookshops, libraries, theatres and festivals, as well as in schools. This is her fourth book for Troika.



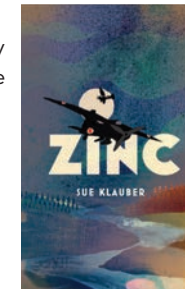
## Cobalt

Written by Sue Klauber

Publication 2024 | 978-1-912745-38-8 | Age 10+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x129mm | 240pp | Rights: World

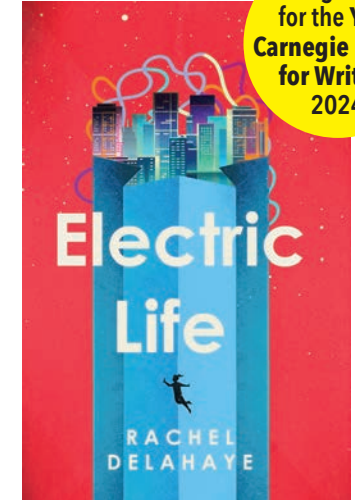
In this follow up story to **Zinc** we follow the stories of George, John and Eva who continue to play vital roles in the effort to defeat the Nazis in WW2. George trains in Scotland for his SOE mission to Poland to help the fighters in the Secret Army. After his work at Bletchley Park, John is now stationed in Cairo in Egypt working on plans to deceive Field Marshal Rommel about the location of the impending battle, while sister Eva in Hungary is finding life for anyone Jewish getting harder and harder as the Nazis harden their grip over the country. Will the siblings ever manage to get together? They share so many memories but war keeps them apart.

Based on the extraordinary real-life experiences of Sue Klauber's father (Coding at Bletchley Park), uncle (SOE in Europe) and aunt (Resistance), she wrote **Zinc** and now **Cobalt** to illustrate the courage of her Jewish family.



978-1-912745-04-3

Longlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2024

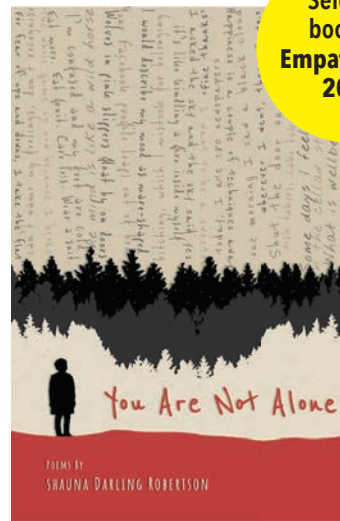


## Electric Life

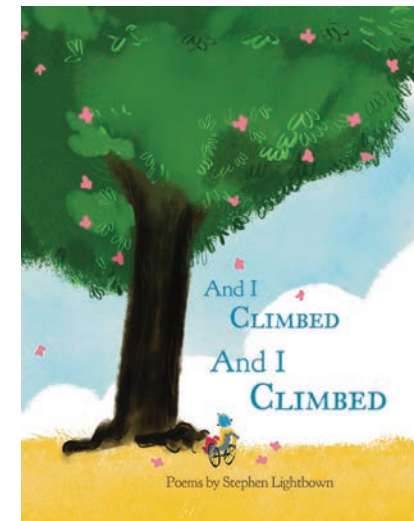
Written by Rachel Delahaye

978-1-912745-32-6 | Age 10+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x129mm | 384pp | Rights: World except Australia/NZ

Alara's incredible gaming skills bring her to the attention of Estrella's leaders. She is chosen to go on a dangerous mission to London Under, the original older, long-deserted and distrusted city on top of which Estrella (the Star city) was built, to gather 'vital' intelligence. Estrella is the perfect society, an immaculate, sanitised, connected environment where everything is channelled through the digital medium. There is no dirt, no pain, no disease, no natural world, even feelings like boredom are frowned upon and discouraged. Alara is dropped down to London Under and into a "new" world which bewilders her and disorients her. How will she survive in a society where noise, dirt and sometimes pain are everyday experiences and where food is not synthetic and tastes are "real"? Will she accomplish her mission? Who can she trust? How will she get back to Estrella and her family and her life without worry?



Selected  
book for  
Empathy Day  
2024



## Why Did My Brain Make Me Say It?

Poems by Sarah Ziman

Publication 2024 | 978-1-912745-39-5 | 7+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 80pp | Rights: World

In this debut collection for children Sarah takes the reader on a vibrant journey based on her acute observations of everyday life and language. Loosely arranged across a school year- September through Halloween, Christmas, Spring, Summer holidays, a new school year/just before secondary - Sarah's witty observations and playful use of language pervade every poem and bring a vivid charm and freshness to every page. This debut collection heralds the emergence of a striking new inventive voice in children's poetry.

**Sarah Ziman** was born and grew up in the South Wales valleys, and is STILL learning Welsh. She had a poem published in a book when she was 11, followed by one which travelled around as a poster on the London Underground when she was 13. She then had a little break of about 30 years, which she mostly spent lazing about eating crisps. She won the YorkMix Poems for Children Competition in 2021, has been highly commended for the Caterpillar Poetry Prize three times, and her poems can be found in magazines and anthologies worldwide.

## You Are Not Alone

Poems by Shauna Darling Robertson

978-1-912745-17-3 | Teen YA | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 128pp | Rights: World

In her second book of poems for young people, Shauna takes an in-depth look at mental health and wellbeing.

The poems in this collection explore a variety of topics, from diagnosed mental health conditions to the everyday personal challenges faced by young people. The poems are variously thought-provoking, reassuring, heart-breaking, galvanizing, funny and hopeful, reflecting a diversity of perspectives, experiences and voices.

**Shauna Darling Robertson** is an award-winning poet writing for children and adults. Shauna grew up in Northumberland and now lives in Somerset. Her work on *You Are Not Alone* has received funding from Arts Council England's 'Developing Your Creative Practice' programme. Shauna's first collection for children, *Saturdays at the Imaginarium*, was published by Troika in 2020.

## The Moon's Gorgonzola

Poems by Debra Bertulis  
illustrated by Zoe Williams

978-1-912745-30-2 | Age 5-6 | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 96pp | Rights: World

This vibrant, bouncy book is a wonderful collection of reflective and soothing poems, poems for performance, rhyming poems, silly poems, puzzle poems and 'carpet' poems.

Debra says: 'I'm a great believer in poetry for younger children being accessible with language they can understand and topics they can relate to. It is a poetry book to be used in school and at home. I write about everyday life and the strange, funny, sometimes sad things that can happen in school and at home.'

**Debra Bertulis** has been a writer of poetry, plays and stories since she was very young. Her poems appear in many anthologies and are performed at Festivals across the world. Her debut collection of children's poetry *Where Do Wishes Go* was published in 2022 by Otter-Barry Books.

**Zoe Williams** graduated from Bath Spa University in 2022 with an honours degree in English Literature and Publishing. *Scared?*, published by Troika in 2022, was Zoe's first published work of illustrations. An aspiring artist from day one, Zoe is now at Bristol studying graphic arts.

## And I Climbed And I Climbed

Poems by Stephen Lightbown  
illustrated by Shih-Yu Lin

978-1-912745-29-6 | Age 7+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 96pp | Rights: World

Cosmo is a young boy whose life has been changed forever, after falling out of the tree he loved to climb. Cosmo is disabled and uses a wheelchair. Now, Cosmo wants to have a conversation with the tree.

In this outstanding debut collection, Stephen Lightbown draws on his own personal experiences as a wheelchair user. Written in Cosmo's voice these poems take the reader on a journey of challenges, questions, hurts, explorations and triumphs.

**Stephen Lightbown** lives in Bristol and writes extensively *but not exclusively* about life as a wheelchair user. Stephen has written poetry for adults and is passionate about wanting to see authentic voices writing about disability across all ages. This is his first collection of poetry for children.

**Shih-Yu Lin** was born in Taipei in Taiwan but now lives in London. He is a graduate of the MA illustration course at Cambridge School of Art. His first book for Troika was *An Ordinary Story* and his most recent was the acclaimed *Things That Should be in a Poem* by Coral Rumble.



### Little Light

A verse novel by Coral Rumble  
978-1-912745-16-6 | Age 10+ | PBK £7.99  
198 x 129 mm | 240pp | Rights: World

Ava is hiding – hiding from the small, cramped room where she lives with her Mum and two younger siblings, hiding from the taunts and hostility she gets at school, hiding from her sometimes lonely and difficult life. But there's love and support here too, in the form of Ava's best friend Roxy, her wise Trinidadian Nan and a stray dog she befriends. Can Ava be brave enough to shine light when life gets dark?

Moving, emotive and poignant, Coral Rumble's verse novel is a compellingly beautiful read. In a seamless poetic narrative she creates a world peppered with utterly believable characters and feelings, and sensitively highlights some of the dilemmas and challenges many young people face as they grow up.

**Coral Rumble** is one of our most popular poets, **Michael Rosen** has commented, 'Rumble has a dash and delight about her work'.

Coral performs and gives workshops at art centres, museums, bookshops, libraries, theatres and festivals, as well as in schools. *Little Light* was selected as one of the key books for National Empathy Day..



### Things That Should Be in a Poem

Poems by Coral Rumble  
illustrated by Shih-Yu Lin in colour  
978-1-912745-20-3 | Age 5+ | PBK | £8.99  
225 x 165mm | 80pp | Rights: World

*A weekend of time/ A wide space to play/  
I think I'll collect/ A poem today*

A brand-new collection of 50 poems to introduce poetry to the youngest reader. Coral's warm, vibrant, exciting world of poems is complemented by Shih-Yu's expressive colour illustrations.

**Coral writes:** 'Did you know, you can bump into a poem anywhere? You find them in houses, fields, oceans, cities, trees...the list is endless! I've even found poems in people's faces, when they laugh or cry, or get excited. Of course, you have to write the poems you find, because poems can't hold a pen or type on a keyboard. This book is full of poems I found when I was looking out for them. I actually had to dig some out of my imagination – ouch! You'll discover in the pages some things that I think should be in a poem, but I'm sure you can think of more.

Go hunting!'



### Riding a Lion

Poems by Coral Rumble  
illustrated by Emily Ford  
978-1-912745-02-9 | Age 7-9 | PBK £8.99  
225 x 165mm | 96pp | Rights: World

Some people like to think that a collection of poems for children has to be either funny or serious, as if there were two types of children who would only like one or the other! But life isn't like that... some days we think hard, some days we cry and some days we laugh loudly and boldly – and so do children.

In this book, you will find poems that puzzle you, tell you stories and make you ask questions. There are dangerous poems, delicate poems and daft poems. Whether you're in a thinking mood, a laughing mood or a crazy mood, there are poems here that will keep you company.

**Emily Ford** is a freelance illustrator from Cumbria. She has a passion for storytelling and reading, inspiring her to create her own imaginary worlds populated with characters and magic. Emily collaborated with her friend Stevie Westgarth to create Troika's *Aife and Stray: Seven Style Secrets for a Perilous Party*.



### Scared?

*Poems From The Darker Side*  
Written by Neal Zetter and Joshua Seigal  
978-1-912745-14-2 | Age 7-11 | PBK | £8.99  
198x129mm | 128pp | Rights: World

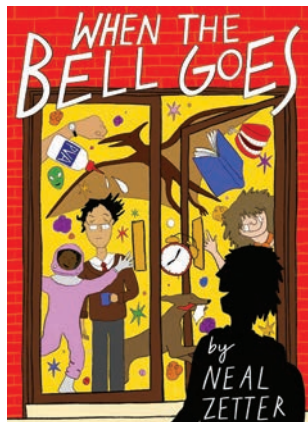
*'It follows me  
and yet it's not a part of me  
It does the things I do'*

48 inventive, insightful poems exploring the darker side. From bullies to black holes, cats to clowns, these original and thought provoking poems are a roller-coaster ride through both the silliness and sadness of being human.

*Scared?* celebrates the work of poets Neal Zetter and Joshua Seigal and it's not afraid of exploring the tougher side of growing up. A book that can pave the way for important conversations.

**Neal Zetter** is a London-based comedy performance poet, author and entertainer who has been using poetry writing and performance to develop literacy, confidence, self-expression, creativity and presentation skills in 3 to 103-year-olds for more than twenty years.

**Joshua Seigal** is an exciting, dynamic performance poet and children's author. He won the Laugh Out Loud Book Award in 2020.



**When the Bell Goes**

Written by Neal Zetter

Illustrated by Emily Ford

978-1-909991-57-6 | Age 7-11 | PBK | £8.99

225 x 165mm | 96pp | Rights: World

Here's a hilarious poetry collection by comedy performance poet Neal Zetter that takes you back to his time at school. You'd be forgiven for wondering if anything much has changed! Meet Mr Shoutyteacher, always getting in a strop, as well as the school nose-picker (careful if he's sitting next to you). What's your excuse for not doing your homework? Who feels like maths is a number-filled mystery? What's your favourite sport - football in the playground or risking the dangers of roller-skating? Rap and rhyme your way around all the notable characters in school, not forgetting the members of your own embarrassing family. And look out for jokes as well as fascinating facts (true or false?).

Perfect for reading aloud in the classroom (if you dare!) and for sharing with all the family.

'From mornings to teachers to lessons to home time, Neal brings his performance poetry skills to exploring school life in all its glory. A great addition to class shelves!' **THROUGH THE BOOKSHELF**



**Saturdays at the Imaginarium**

Poems by Shauna Darling Robertson

Illustrated by Judith Wisdom

978-1-912745-12-8 | Age 7+ | PBK £7.99 |

210x140mm | 96pp | Rights: World

In her first book of poems for children, Shauna celebrates creative thinking and encourages curiosity, looking at things from fresh and surprising perspectives. Thoughts whizz around like mosquitoes, a day lasts longer than a year and the weather forecast is for an ear-to-ear grin nearly two miles high.

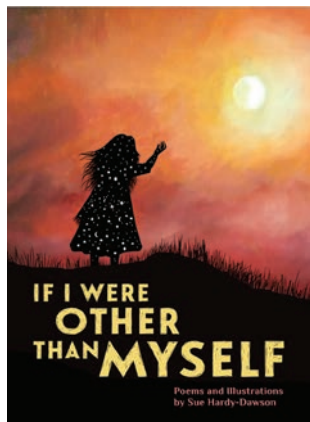
Inventive, provocative and highly original, Saturdays at the Imaginarium asks big questions about how we see ourselves and each other as well as our place in the world. It invites children of all ages to explore the incredible potential of their own imagination.

*'One of the most inventive, quirky and enjoyable poetry collections I've read for a while. Some wonderful gems for Key Stage Two to get stuck into.'*

**Jon Biddle, READING FOR PLEASURE**

**A National Poetry Day Selection 2021.**

**Longlisted for the North Somerset Teachers' Book Award 2021**



**If I Were Other Than Myself**

*A Poetry Collection*

Written and illustrated by Sue Hardy-Dawson

978-1-909991-85-9 | Age 7+ PBK | £7.99

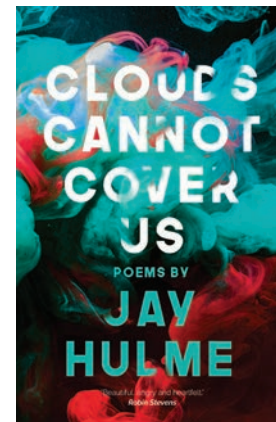
225 x 165mm | 96pp | Rights: World

A stunning collection, full of magical fantasy and dream-like inventions.

Some of these poems are interwoven... 'Blackout' leads to 'Fear of the Unknown', while 'Why Trees Whisper' segues into 'Zephyr' and 'Dog Reads the Wind'. The child is a frequent motif, perhaps even the voice of the haunting title poem 'If I Were Other Than Myself' with its final question 'and should I wish, would I be missed?'

With its engagingly visual qualities and ingeniously shaped animal poems, this is an invitation for young imaginations to run wild. Celebrate the joy, sadness and sheer exhilaration of poetry. Sue Hardy-Dawson brings her poems to vivid life with her striking illustrations.

**Sue Hardy-Dawson** is a Yorkshire-born poet and artist who has been published in many poetry anthologies. She worked with children for 20 years and took a degree in creative writing and literature from the Open University. She is dyslexic and takes a special interest in encouraging reluctant readers and writers.



**Clouds Cannot Cover Us**

Jay Hulme

978-1-912745-10-4 | Age: Teen YA | PBK £7.99 |

198 x 129mm | 96pp | Rights: World

The poems in this collection chart Jay's journey from growing up in a working-class family in Leicestershire to his feelings and thoughts about school life and his experience as a transgender teenager.

Jay says: When it was decided this collection would be for teenagers I was left with this determination, that this collection wouldn't speak down to anyone, that the world I portrayed within it would be the world we live in, that there would be no attempt to make reality 'appropriate for children'. People seem to forget that teenagers live in the same world as everyone else, and they face the same struggles adults face every day. The things that are traditionally seen as inappropriate for young people to see, are so often the same things they experience day to day'.

**Jay Hulme** is an award-winning poet and performer from Leicester, Winner of Slambassadors 2015, and finalist in the 2016 Roundhouse Poetry Slam. His work was Highly Commended in the 2018 CLIPPA Awards. He also works as an ambassador for Inclusive Minds, promoting inclusion and diversity in children's publishing, and doing sensitivity reads to ensure depictions of trans people in books are both accurate and unoffensive.



**This Rock, That Rock**

*Poems between you, me and the moon*

Written by Dom Conlon

Illustrated by Viviane Schwarz

978-1-909991-92-7 | Age 7+ | PBK | £8.99

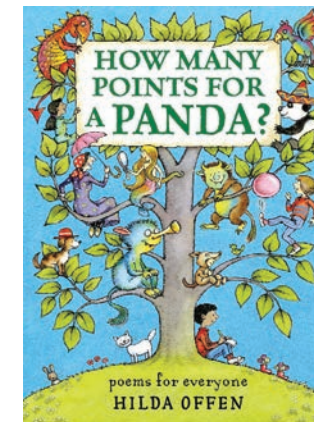
225 x 165mm | 96pp | Rights: World

To celebrate 50 years since the first moon landing by Apollo 11 in 1969, here is an original collection of 50 poems. In his poems Dom tells us of two incredible things. First, the Moon is incredible: it controls our tides, gives us 24-hour days and keeps our planet stable enough to have seasons. Second, Dom reminds us that poetry is incredible because it is the most flexible form of expressing ourselves, and is how we've always told stories, particularly about our ways of seeing this incredible Moon. Put the two together and the Moon is an inspiring rock of possibilities.

To tell us this, Dom uses all kinds of poetry forms... short poems and long ones, silly poems and serious ones.

*'Words and pictures that are quite simply out of this world. I love this book!' Chris Riddell*

**Dom Conlon** is a space poet, copyrighter and frequent radio guest. He is a published poet who runs workshop sessions, teaching writing, reading and understanding poetry- in particular, to inspire children to look up to the stars and across to each other.



**How Many Points for a Panda?**

*Poems for Everyone*

Written and illustrated by Hilda Offen

978-1-912745-11-1 | BIC YDP | Age 7+ PBK | £7.99 | 210 x 175mm | 64pp | Rights: World

A new collection by acclaimed poet Hilda Offen. Illustrated with her own characterful line drawings here are poems full of humour which express her compassionate view of the world in scenes of family life and school as well as Hilda's reflections on history and the things she sees around her.

**Hilda Offen** is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator with many books in print. She won the Smarties Gold Award for her picture book *Nice Work, Little Wolf!* and her book *The Galloping Ghost* was shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Book Prize. Troika Books publish her *Rita the Rescuer* stories as well as *The Song of the Dodo*, *Blue Balloons and Rabbit Ears* - shortlisted for the 2015 CLIPPA (CLPE Poetry Prize) and her second collection *Message from the Moon* was selected for The Reading Agency's 2017 Summer Reading Challenge.

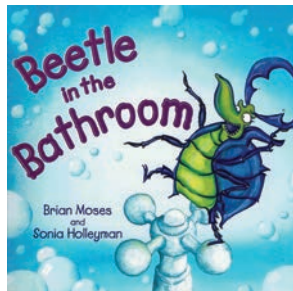
Hilda lives in Brighton. She is a regular visitor to schools and libraries where her author sessions are very popular.



**Walking with My Iguana**

Brian Moses, Illustrated in full colour by Ed Boxall  
978-1-909991-84-2 | PBK | £8.99  
225 x 230mm | 32pp | Rights: World

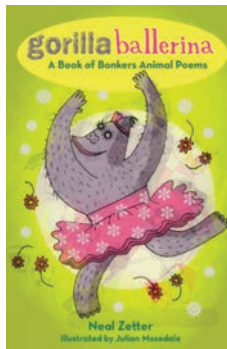
This is Brian Moses' most popular poem when he performs in schools. It is full of energy, rhythm and fun. With Ed Boxall's colourful illustrations, it is a perfect picture book for sharing.



**Beetle in the Bathroom**

Brian Moses, Illustrated in full colour by Sonia Holleyman  
978-1-909991-61-3 | PBK | £6.99  
210x228mm | 32pp Rights: World

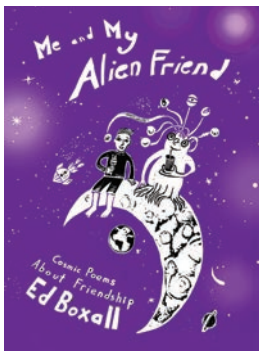
Who's that using the bathroom? You should think twice before you go in! A fresh and funny rhyming story by poet Brian Moses with wild and wacky pictures of friendly and fantastic characters.



**Gorilla Ballerina**

Neal Zetter, Ill. Julian Mosedale  
978-1-912745-05-0 | Age 7-9 | PBK | £7.99  
198 x 130mm | 96pp | Rights: World

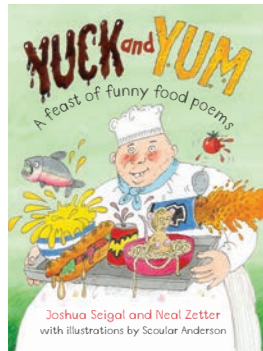
*A gorilla doing ballet! An anteater who won't eat ants! An invisible dog!* You'll find them all here along with a much bigger bunch of amazing animal poems. You are guaranteed to laugh like a hy... hy... hyyyyeeena!



**Me and My Alien Friend**

Written + illustrated by Ed Boxall  
978-1-909991-82-8 | Age 7-9 | PBK | £8.99  
225x165mm | 64pp | Rights: World

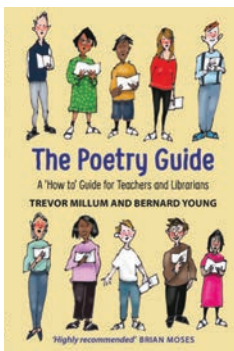
*Me and My Alien Friend* is Ed Boxall's first full-length collection of children's poetry. The book is full of all sorts of friends: best friends, changing friends, absent friends, animal friends, imaginary friends and even a friend who's a 'Thing on a Springy String'. Here, friends adventure together: discovering, exploring and sharing life's happy hills and lonely dark hollows.



**Yuck and Yum:**

*A Feast of Funny Food Poems*  
Neal Zetter and Joshua Seigal, illustrated by Scoular Anderson  
978-1-909991-45-3 | Age 7-9 | PBK | £7.99  
225x165mm | 96pp | Rights: World

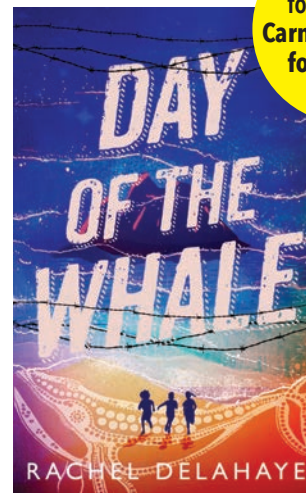
Two celebrated performance poets in one bumper collection join together to make not just a meal but a feast of funny poems about foods that you might like and some that you will definitely hate. A perfect book for reading aloud and sharing in class as well as at home.



**The Poetry Guide**

*A handbook for teachers & librarians*  
Trevor Millum & Bernard Young  
978-1-912745-09-8 PBK £8.99 | 198 x 130mm  
96pp | Rights: World

A 'How to' book encouraging children to seek out and read poetry, both by listening or reading; ncluding practical suggestions for teachers and librarians on effectively and creatively teaching poetry.



Nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023

**Day of the Whale**

Written by Rachel Delahaye  
978-1-912745-19-7 | Age 10+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 336pp | Rights: World

'Follow Big Blue. Tell the Truth.' That was the last thing Cam's father said to him and it was important. Cam follows Big Blue - everybody does on the island of Cetacea. Their lives take place within his rules, delivered to them by enigmatic whale-talker, Byron Vos. Byron was once a marine scientist but is now organizing an epic clean-up operation to revive the ocean after centuries of human greed and neglect. And yet Cam wonders if there is a more complex truth he has not yet discovered. A truth that may be connected to his father's disappearance. Cam's quest to understand Big Blue leads him to new friends and shared adventures - but the truth, when he finds it, is more dangerous than ever he could have imagined.

**Rachel Delahaye** After studying linguistics and working as a magazine writer and editor, Rachel now writes for children and always has new projects brewing. Rachel was born in Australia but has lived in the UK since she was six years old. She lives in Bath and is married with two children and a dog called Rocket.



**Zinc**

Written by Sue Klauber  
978-1-912745-04-3 | Age 10+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 240pp | Rights: World

It is 1939 and the Nazis are menacing Europe and planning to invade Britain. What can brothers John and George do to make a difference? Soon John is cracking German codes at Bletchley Park and George is parachuting into enemy territory. But what of their sister Eva? What will she do in this time of unimaginable danger?

Based on the true and thrilling events of Sue Klauber's Hungarian Jewish father, uncle and aunt's secret lives, *Zinc* looks at the remarkable lengths three young people would go to protect their family and their adopted country.

**Sue Klauber** is an experienced fundraiser and former media producer and educator. She has produced films for refugee children from Columbia, Kurdistan, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iran, Armenia and Romania, worked as lead fundraiser in an arts and social care charity and is now Trusts and Foundation Fundraiser for a charity where she monitors grants across areas of residential care, community centres, physical disability and Holocaust survivors' services. *Zinc* is her first children's book.



### The Long Weekend

Written by Savita Kalhan

978-1-912745-01-2 | Age 12+ | PBK | £8.99  
198 x 129mm | 192pp | Rights: UK, Commonwealth ex-Canada

*'Isn't this your car we're riding in?'*

Sam and his friend Lloyd have made a colossal mistake when they accept a lift home. Now they are in a dark mansion in the middle of nowhere with a man who wants to harm them. But Sam doesn't know how to get them out. First they were trapped, then separated and now they are alone.

Can either of them get out alive?

*'I loved this book! It had me shivering with fright because it made me realise how easy it is to fall into a trap like that. It was scarily realistic.'* Grace Woolford (12)

**Savita Kalhan** was born in India but moved to the UK when she was very young. She graduated with a joint honours degree in Politics and Philosophy from the University of Wales. She was a Batik artist and taught English in the Middle East before she turned to writing. *The Long Weekend* was her first published book. Her highly praised books for Troika include *The Girl in the Broken Mirror* and *That Asian Kid*. Savita lives in London.



### A Crack in the Sea

Written by H M Bouwman

Illustrated by Yuko Shimizu

978-1-912745-06-7 | Age 10+ | PBK | £8.99 | 198 x 129mm  
368pp | Rights: UK and Commonwealth ex-Canada

A unique middle-grade fantasy adventure based on real-life events, with a captivating narrative that touches both on magical and 'real' worlds.

Three families, two worlds and one magical portal. At the heart of this story is the historical event of 1781 when 133 slaves, women, children and men, were thrown overboard from the

Liverpool slave ship, Zong.

Vivid illustrations by Yuko Shimizu add to the drama of the story.

**H M Bouwman** is an American author of children's novels. A Professor of English at the University of St Thomas, she lives in St Paul, Minnesota, with her two sons.



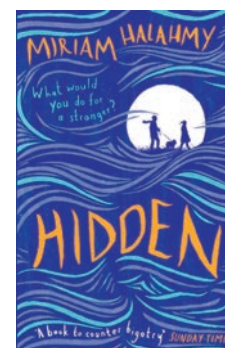
### Does She Dare?

Bernard Ashley

978-1-909991-59-0 | YA PBK | £6.99 | 198x130mm  
224pp | Rights: World

Lizzie is dazzled by the Suffragettes and their daring Votes for Women campaign. As she follows them into unexpected danger, she also faces a battle of her own, against a violent and abusive father.

Does she dare defy him?



### Hidden

Miriam Halahmy

978-1-909991-62-0 | YA PBK | £8.99 | 198x130mm  
272pp | Rights UK & Commonwealth

One day on the beach Alix and her school mate Samir pull a drowning man out of the sea. He is an illegal immigrant, desperate not to be deported. Faced with the most difficult decision of her life, what will Alix do and who can she trust?

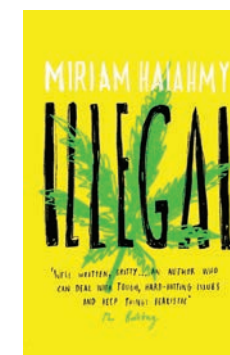


### A Berlin Love Song

Sarah Matthias

978-1-909991-40-8 | YA PBK | £7.99 | 198x130mm | 432pp |  
Rights: World | Rights sold: Bulgarian, Czech, Serbian

Schoolboy Max meets Lili, a trapeze artist from a circus in Berlin. Their friendship turns to love but she is a Romani and love between a Romani and a German is forbidden. Max is conscripted into the army. As war tears them apart can their love survive?



### Illegal

Miriam Halahmy

978-1-909991-96-5 | YA PBK | £7.99 | 198 x 130mm  
320pp | Rights: UK & Commonwealth

Lindy's cousin has got her a job – it means visiting a rented house in Hayling Island, putting the lights on and watering the plants. But it's a cannabis farm, and Lindy is caught up in an international drugs ring. When you're in this deep, can you ever be free?

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  - Rita Superhero** 978-1-909991-87-3
  - Rita and the Haunted House** 978-1-909991-88-0

**Hilda Offen** is an award-winning children's author and illustrator known for her picture books, stories for young readers and poetry.

She won the Smarties Gold Award for her picture book *Nice Work, Little Wolf!* and her book *The Galloping Ghost* was shortlisted for the Roald Dahl Funny Book Prize and the Portsmouth Children's Book Award. *Blue Balloons and Rabbit Ears* was shortlisted for the 2015 CLPE Poetry Award. Hilda lives in Brighton.



Rita the Rescuer, superhero, introduced to a new generation of readers in two brand-new stories. Younger readers will be inspired by this brave and powerful character.

Once Rita has changed into her Rescuer outfit she's ready for any adventure, whether it's scaring off a castle ghost, battling knights in a swordfight, sorting out a giant crocodile or rescuing a puppy that can't swim.

You can count on the Rescuer!

**Zen Tales**

By Peter Whitfield Illustrated by Nancy Bevington are classic philosophical stories adapted and beautifully illustrated for children, written in an accessible and thought-provoking style. These incredible ancient stories will stimulate children and encourage their curiosity about concepts such as wisdom, spiritual awareness, and mindfulness. Each book is illustrated in full colour throughout with an easy-to-read format. They are a light-hearted and fun way to learn about ideas and wisdom that will stimulate interest in young minds. Every story has a 'Reflections on the story' section to further encourage more curiosity and help to explain in an insightful way the ideas in each story.

**Peter Whitfield** has been teaching courses on Philosophy for many years. The stories that Peter writes are thousands of years old. These ancient ideas are just as relevant today as they were when they were first written. Peter has also been a publisher and a businessman and is a devoted father to five children.

**Nancy Bevington** is an energetic, multifaceted visual artist. Her artistic career spans over three decades, working in painting, illustration and concept creation and execution. Picture books are one of her real passions. Nancy uses traditional media including gouache and watercolour, as well as photography and digital.



**Are You Sure?**

978-1-912745-27-2 | Age 6+ | PBK | £7.99 | 32pp | 225 x165mm | Rights: World exc. ANZ

Gilbert Beaver thinks that winning the race and receiving his prize is good. He believes that falling out of a tree and into the river is bad.



**The Know It All**

978-1-912745-28-9 | Age 6+ | PBK | £7.99 | 32pp | 225 x165mm | Rights: World exc. ANZ

The lazy cat Fur Ball believes she knows everything. When the dam bursts and she is drenched, Fur Ball realises that being a 'know it all', can sometimes end in disaster.



**Bruno Dreams of Ice Cream**

978-1-912745-24-1 | Age 6+ | PBK | £7.99 | 32pp 225 x165mm | Rights: World exc. ANZ

In this Tale, everyone has an ice cream except Bruno - and Bruno cannot get ice-cream off his mind! So much so that he becomes irritable, distracted and unfocused.

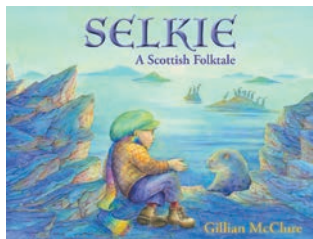


**No Presents Please**

978-1-912745-25-8 | Age 6+ | PBK | £7.99 | 32pp | 225 x165mm | Rights: World exc. ANZ

Grizzel bear is not in a good mood. He is full of anger. He bumps into Guru Walter who is sitting peacefully and enjoying a glorious day in the sun, and a gentle breeze. Grizzel's anger is not going to spoil his day.



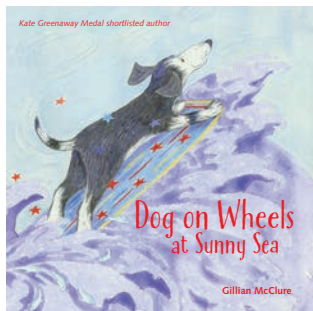


**Selkie: A Scottish Folktale**

978-1-909991-26-2 | Age 4+ | PBK | £8.99  
260 x 180mm | 32pp | Full colour illustrations  
Rights available: World Rights sold: China

Peter has heard the legend of the Selkie seals who can turn into humans. One day he rescues a real live Selkie from the oysterman's nets. Beautiful Selkie teaches Peter the secret language of the sea, but will this be enough to save them when danger threatens?

**Winner of the US Parent's Guide to Children's Media Award for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Books**



**Dog on Wheels at Sunny Sea**

978-1-909991-71-2 | Age 3+ | PBK £6.99  
260 x 250mm | 32pp | Rights: World

Dubbin and Todd are at the seaside! Dubbin has his skateboard and Todd's got a blue ball. As they roll along to the pier - disaster! The ball flies over the wall and then Todd disappears. It's Dubbin to the rescue! A delightful follow-up to the first *Dog on Wheels*.

*Dog on Wheels: I absolutely love it. It's energetic and jubilant! Woof!*  
**Kevin Crossley-Holland**



**Dog on Wheels**

978-1-909991-36-1 | Age 3+ | PBK £6.99  
260 x 250mm | 32pp | Full colour illustrations  
Rights: World

Dog pals Dubbin and Todd are going on a walk before breakfast: Dubbin on his skateboard and Todd lagging behind on paws. Not only that but Todd is also carrying a huge bone which is attracting attention from another, not so nice, dog. Can Dubbin, Todd and the bone get home safely?

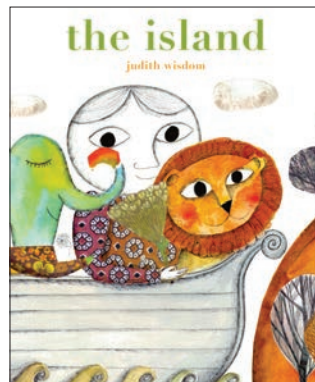


**Dog on Wheels Goes Snowboarding**

978-1-909991-79-8 | Age 3+ | PBK £6.99  
260 x 250mm | 32pp | Rights: World

A snowy adventure for the dog pals, Dubbin and Todd. Dubbin flips off his wheels and *Ta-da!* His skateboard becomes a snowboard. Todd follows behind on a tray but there are frightening things along the way - can he and Dubbin deal with them?

The third title in the continuing *Dog on Wheels* series of adventures.



**The Island**

Written + illustrated by Judith Wisdom  
978-1-912745-26-5 | Age 4-8 | PBK | £8.99  
270 x 225mm | 32pp | Rights: World

Moon Lady, Trunky and Little Lion are the very best of friends. But they have no place to really call their own. So they sail away to find somewhere they can all be together. They discover a beautiful island but the islanders are not friendly and force them into a zoo to be stared at. What will happen to them? Is there any way out and will they ever find their perfect home? This beautifully illustrated picture book is a charming tale of friendship, hope and acceptance.

*'I have always been entranced by the work of Judith Wisdom'*  
**Jackie Morris**

**Judith Wisdom** studied visual communications at Corsham Art College after which she illustrated for magazines such as *Harpers and Queen*, *Tatler*, *Time Out* and *Just Seventeen*. She is the author/illustrator of *Whatever Wanda Wanted*, *Miss Chicken* and *The Hungry Neighbour* and *Billy Jupiter*. Judith lives in Bath and draws her inspiration from time spent in the Waterstones café, the place where her creative ideas come to life after meeting new people and talking to the booksellers.



**Ava's Spectacular Spectacles**

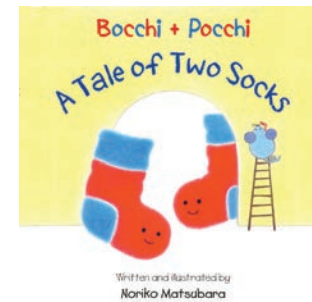
Written by Peter Whitfield  
Illustrated by Angela Perrini  
978-1-912745-15-9 | Age 4-8 | PBK | £8.99  
270 x 225mm | 32pp | Rights: World ex ANZ

Ava hates her glasses, and sometimes chooses not to wear them. Ava's teacher sympathises and rather than tell her to put them on, she opens a book of fairy tales and suggests that all of the main characters in her favourite stories, could have avoided their troubles by wearing their glasses. By the end, Ava is adding to the stories, and seeing her own life more clearly.



**Dragon's Wood**

Brian Moses, Ill. Ed Boxall  
978-1-912745-08-1 | BIC YBC | Age 3+ | PBK £7.99 | 225 x 230 mm | 32pp | Rights: World  
A child and their dog explore the woods. As they look around they think what it would be like if dragons were actually living there. A wonderful, imaginative picture book with pictures inspired by medieval woodcuts of dragons and their colours from stained glass windows.



**Bocchi + Pocchi: A Tale of Two Socks**

Noriko Matsubara  
978-0-9573013-0-6 | PBK | £6.99 | 230x230mm  
32pp | Rights: World ex: Simplified Chinese, Korea, Japan, Spain, Vietnam

Bocchi and Pocchi are the best of friends. One night Pocchi disappears. Can these woolly friends ever find each other again?

**Praise for Bocchi and Pocchi**

*'Wonderfully quirky stories about two truly close-knit friends'*  
**LANCASHIRE EVENING POST**

*'Socks as you've never seen them before! The illustrations are a delight - bright and simple and full of fun'* **PARENTS IN TOUCH**

*'The humble sock will never seem the same after finishing this eye-catching picture book'*  
**INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY**

**Noriko Matsubara** is an author and illustrator born in Japan. Noriko studied visual arts at Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada and completed an MA in Fine Art at Central St Martin's College of Art and Design in UK. The inspiration for her stories came from her childhood as she would watch her grandmother regularly darning socks and wondering what happened to them. She currently lives in Consett, Co.Durham, with her husband and two small children.



**Bocchi and Pocchi and the Bird**

Noriko Matsubara  
978-1-909991-01-9 | PBK | £6.99 | 230x230mm  
32pp | Rights available: World | Rights sold: Simplified Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish

The two socks meet an injured bird and take her to their home. But in the morning they find unexpected guests have also arrived!



**Bocchi and Pocchi's Big Surprise**

Noriko Matsubara  
978-1-909991-19-4 | PBK | £6.99 | 230x230mm  
32pp | Rights available: World | Rights sold: Simplified Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish  
Bocchi and Pocchi have found a caterpillar in the kitchen! They want to take care of him, but who on earth eats cabbage for breakfast? Soon Bocchi and Pocchi's new friend will give them a wonderful surprise!

**Rights Information:**

Bocchi and Pocchi titles have sold all over the world, in China, Korea, Vietnam, Japan and Spain



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