

Helping you choose books for children



opening extract from

# **The Jumble Book**

poems chosen by

**Roger Stevens**

published by

**Pan Macmillan**

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

please print off and read at your leisure.

For Joseph



First published 2009 by Macmillan Children's Books  
a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited  
20 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RR  
Basingstoke and Oxford  
Associated companies throughout the world  
www.panmacmillan.com

ISBN 978-0-330-46865-7

This collection copyright © Roger Stevens 2009  
All poems copyright © the individual poets  
Illustrations copyright © Sarah Nayler 2009

The right of Sarah Nayler to be identified as the  
illustrator of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with  
the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be  
reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or  
transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical,  
photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written  
permission of the publisher. Any person who does any unauthorized  
act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal  
prosecution and civil claims for damages.

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from  
the British Library.

Printed and bound in the UK by CPI Mackays, Chatham ME5 8TD

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not,  
by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out,  
or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent  
in any form of binding or cover other than that in which  
it is published and without a similar condition including this  
condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

## Contents

A Warning to Grown-Ups viii

Nothing Else	Kit Wright	1
All About Poets	Trevor Parsons	2
The All-Purpose Children's Poem	Roger McGough	3
Words in Space	Michael Rosen	5
The Side Up Down Poem	Andrew Fusek Peters	6
Weightlessness	Roger Stevens	7
Rolling Down a Hill	Colin West	8
Metropoem	Celina Macdonald	9
Second Look at the Proverbs	Gerard Benson	9
The Colour of My Dreams	Peter Dixon	10
Nought to Nine	Rachel Rooney	12
Lost Property Office	John Rice	14
Hey Diddle Diddle	Roger Stevens	16
High Queue	Bernard Young	17
The Moon Speaks	James Carter	18
Snake	Catherine Benson	19
Sssss . . .	Gerard Benson	20
Elephant	Sue Hardy-Dawson	21
My Cousin Melda	Grace Nichols	22
Wonder Dogs for Sale	Violet Macdonald	23
Llama, Llama	Michaela Morgan	24
You Have Been Warned	Liz Brownlee	25

Mr and Mrs Peacock	Sue Hardy-Dawson	26	Short Visit, Long Stay	Paul Cookson	53
Crick Crack Crocodile	Joan Poulson	27	The Triangular Cruise	Andrea Shavick	54
Rex	Jane Clarke	28	The Magician	Michael Leigh	55
Hedgehog Hugs	Liz Brownlee	30	A Sight for Sore Eyes	Robert Scotellaro	56
Neversaurus	Celia Warren	30	Grandad on My Scooter	Justin Coe	57
Canine Kenning	James Carter	31	Making a Meal of It	Bernard Young	58
Little Miss Muffet	Ian Bland	32	The Winning Goal	Roger Stevens	59
Suspense Haiku	Roger Stevens	32	My Mum Put Me on the Transfer List	David Harmer	60
The Grand Old Count of York	John Foster	33	We've Got a Girl in Our Team	John Coldwell	61
A Wonderful Week	Julia Rawlinson	34	Little Lee	Jill Townsend	62
Monster Sale!!!	Clare Bevan	35	Victoria's Poem	Fred Sedgwick	63
Mum's Umbrage	Graham Denton	35	Unfair	Rachel Rooney	64
Medusa's Bad-Hair Days	Brian Moses	36	Actions Speak	Paul Cookson	66
Laughter	John Agard	38	The Roman Baths	Chrissie Gittins	67
There's a Lot I've Not Seen	Nick Toczek	39	Smile Please	Eric Finney	68
Fed Up?	Michaela Morgan	40	Valentine from a Scientist	Celina Macdonald	69
Grandpa's Soup	Jackie Kay	42	When We Grow Up	Steven Herrick	70
No Longer My Hero	Philip Waddell	44	Science Lesson	Mike Johnson	72
Biscuit Poem	Tony Mitton	44	Choosing a Book	Celia Warren	73
For the Soup	John Hegley	45	Not Stupid	Daphne Kitching	74
Mum Says . . .	Judith Nicholls	46	The Jumble Boy	Justin Coe	76
Fruit Jokes	Adrian Mitchell	47	Bedtime Mysteries	Philip Waddell	78
Never Trust a Lemon	Roger Stevens	48			
Here Lies Mad Lil	Jan Dean	49	Afterword		81
Beware! Take Care!	Ian Billings	50	About Dyslexia Action		82
Pupil Troubles	Graham Denton	51	Acknowledgements		84
Whizz Kid	Gina Douthwaite	52			

# A Warning to Grown-Ups

Poetry is fun. Do not spoil it.

Do not make children read this book for homework. If you do you may be vaporized by a death ray.

Poems are allowed to have rude words because they are literature, so bum to you.

Do not ask children how these poems make them feel. It is a stupid question.

Do not try to analyse these poems: they may self-detonate.

If you can't see the sense of it, that's probably your fault.

Poems do not have to be written in grammatical sentences or have correct punctuation, so nurch.

Do not tell people off for daydreaming. Poems come from daydreams.

Never make anyone copy out a poem. It spoils it.

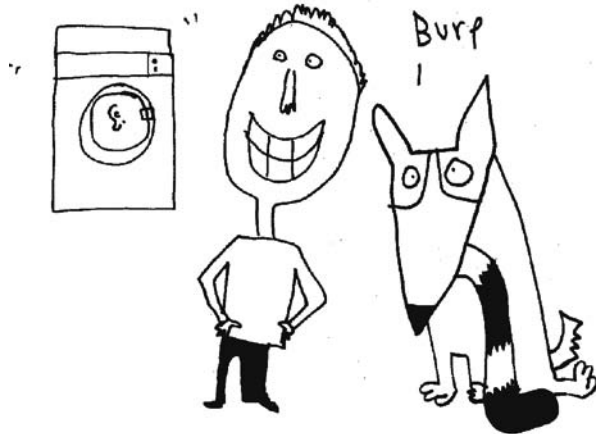
Do not make children read these poems aloud in front of the whole class. If you do, you will be kidnapped by aliens and taken to Alpha Centauri and forced to mark Year Six homework for a thousand years.

*Issued by the Galactic Authority and dictated by telepathy to **Ken Follett**, who wrote it all down with no crossings out*

## The Side Up Down Poem

Wash your ears, Mum said.  
So I took them off  
And stuck them in the washing machine.  
Clean your room, Dad said.  
So I rolled it up  
And shook it out of the window.  
Make the breakfast, my brother said.  
So I did –  
With bits of balsa wood and modelling glue.  
Feed the cat, my auntie said.  
So I fed him . . .  
To the dog!  
Take your time, Dad said.  
So I packed up the clocks  
And I flew to Mars  
Where the days fly by  
Wearing nothing but stars.

*Andrew Fusek Peters*



## Weightlessness

As the spaceship turns into the planet's pull  
Weightlessness

As the teacher looks up from her book  
And sees you just about  
To throw the paper dart  
Weightlessness

As the sandman drapes  
The cape of darkness  
On your half-formed thoughts  
Weightlessness

Before you are born, when you are gone  
Weightlessness

*Roger Stevens*

## Rolling Down a Hill

I'm rolling  
rolling  
rolling  
down

I'm rolling  
down a  
hill.

I'm rolling  
rolling  
down

I'm rolling  
down it still.  
I'm rolling  
down

I'm rolling  
rolling  
rolling  
down


I'm rolling  
down a  
hill.

I'm rolling  
rolling  
rolling  
down

But now  
I'm feeling  
ill.

Colin West

## Metropoem

I am writing this poem   
Tick tick tick tick tick tick tick  
To a met ro nome  
Tick tick tick tick tick  
So if I get just one beat wrong  
Tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick  
It' ll hit me with a very long  
Stick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick tick.

*Celina Macdonald*

## Second Look at the Proverbs

People who live in glass-houses  
Should watch it while changing their trouziz

*Gerard Benson*

## The Colour of My Dreams

I am a really rotten reader  
the worst in all the class  
the sort of rotten reader  
that makes you want to laugh.



I'm last in all the readin' tests  
my score's not on the page  
and when I read to teacher  
she gets in such a rage.

She says I cannot form my words  
she says I can't build up  
and that I don't know phonics  
– and don't know c-a-t from k-u-p.

They say that I'm dyslexic  
(that's a word they've just found out)  
. . . but when I get some plasticine  
I know what that's about.

I make these scary monsters  
I draw these secret lands  
and get my hair all sticky  
and paint on all me hands.

I make these super models  
I build these smashing towers  
that reach up to the ceiling  
and take me hours and hours.

I paint these lovely pictures  
in thick green drippy paint  
that gets all on the carpet  
and makes the cleaners faint.

I build great magic forests  
weave bushes out of string  
and paint pink panderellos  
and birds that really sing.

I play my world of real believe  
I play it every day  
and people stand and watch me  
but don't know what to say.

They give me diagnostic tests  
they try out reading schemes  
but none of them will ever know  
the colour of my dreams.

*Peter Dixon*



# Lost Property Office

Pair of sunglasses.  
A walking stick.  
Flower pot.  
A trumpet.  
A child's teddy bear.  
Gentleman's brown hat.  
Nike running shoe (left foot).  
Box of white candles.  
A library book.  
Pillow case (with embroidered elephant).  
Set of false teeth.  
Plastic banana.  
Tennis racket.  
Hot-water bottle.  
Pair of scissors.  
Umbrella.  
A child's Disney watch.  
A mouse (not a real one – a computer mouse!)  
Small suitcase.

Green flask with red beaker.  
Map of London underground.  
Silver whistle.  
Large jar of Vaseline.  
Nine e's  
three l's  
two n's  
two o's  
two s's  
one a  
one d  
one f  
one k  
one r  
one t  
and one u.  
If lost, please find.

*John Rice*

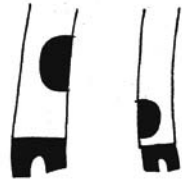




## Hey Diddle Diddle

Hey diddle diddle  
The cat and the fiddle  
The cow jumped over the bed  
The little dog laughed  
But not for long  
Cos the cow landed right on his head

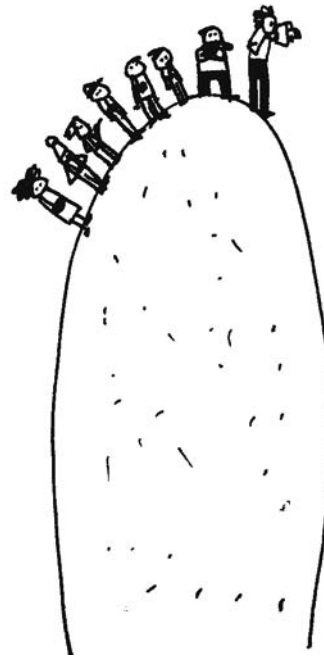
*Roger Stevens*



## High Queue

On the mountain top  
tourists politely queue to  
photograph the view.

*Bernard Young*



## The Moon Speaks

I, the moon,  
would like it known - I  
**never** follow people home. I  
**simply do** not have the time. And  
**neither do** I ever shine. For what you  
**often see** at night is me reflecting solar  
**light. And** I'm not cheese! No, none of  
**these: no mozzarellas, cheddars, bries, all**  
**you'll find** here if you please – are my  
**dusty, empty seas.** And cows do not  
**jump over** me. Now that is simply  
**lunacy! You** used to come and  
**visit me.** Oh, do return,  
**I'm lonely, see.**

*James Carter*

## Snake

The sand is hot  
my belly zip-zips over it,  
drawing neat curves  
that the wind rubs out.  
I divine water  
with my forked-twig tongue,  
water held in the flesh  
and blood of a desert rat.  
With my polished skin  
my lithe body  
my sinuous movement  
my unhingeing jaw  
my engulfing maw  
I surround my meal –  
a long, long gulp,  
a week's digestion.

*Catherine Benson*

