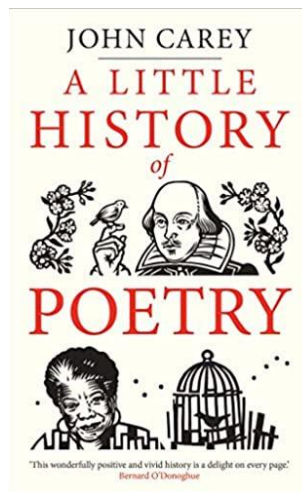
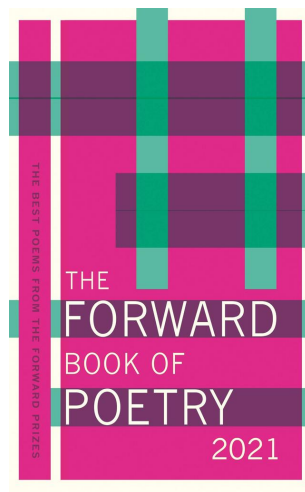
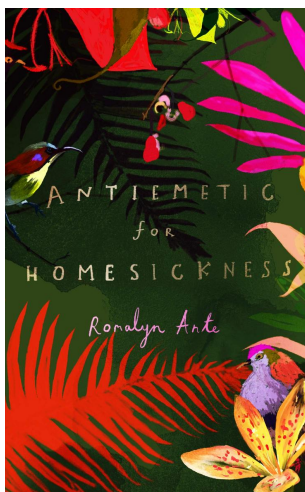
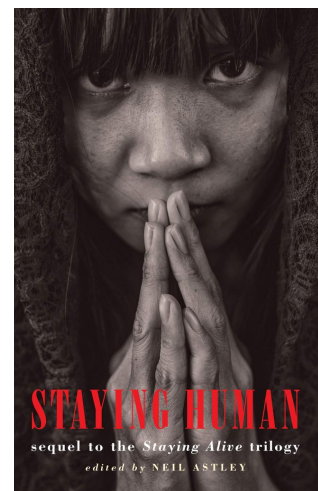
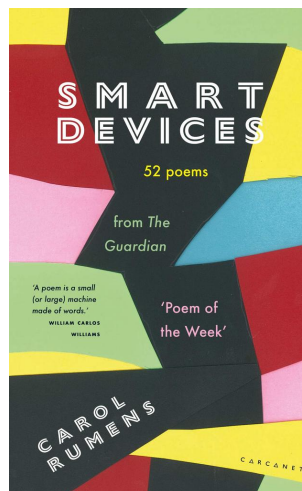
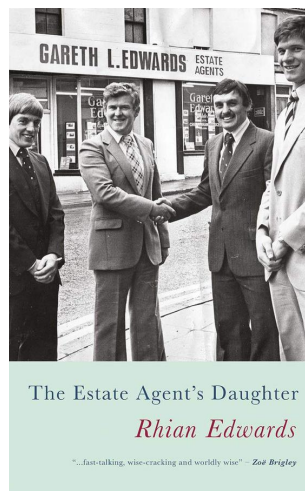
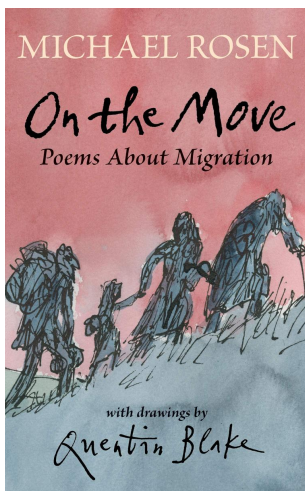


# National Poetry Day Selection



This list of recommended reads for National Poetry Day is its biggest ever this year: 40 gorgeous new poetry books for all ages and stages to read, listen to and share.

The books – including autumn treats from Michael Rosen and Quentin Blake, Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, Inua Ellams and Rachel Long – reflect a growing appetite for poetry that connects people and helps us feel less alone, particularly during the pandemic.

All these titles are available for loan from Islington Libraries. For details of library opening hours visit:

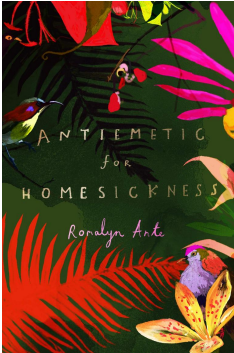
**<https://www.islington.gov.uk/libraries-arts-and-heritage/libraries/your-local-libraries/library-opening-times>**

Follow us on Twitter to stay up to date on the latest activities and events.



**@Islingtonlibs**

# RECOMMENDED FOR ADULTS

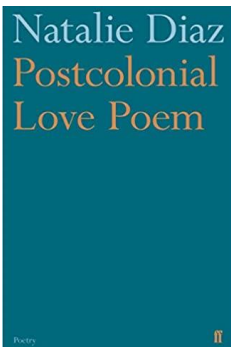
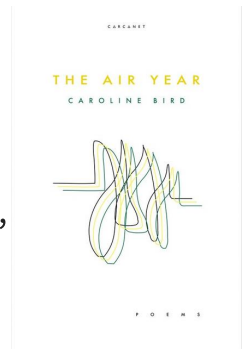


## Romalyn Ante Antiemetic for Homesickness

Steeped in Filipino folklore, and studded with Tagalog, these poems speak of the ache of assimilation and the complexities of belonging.

## Caroline Bird The Air Year

This is love at break-neck pace: the speakers of these poems are funny, reckless, exuberant even when examining the damage.

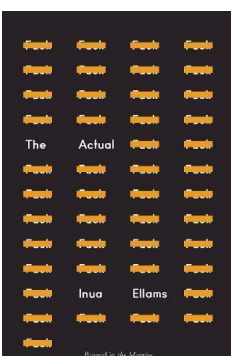
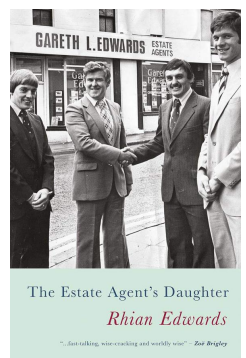


## Natalie Diaz Postcolonial Love Poem

Diaz writes of inherited wounds, the intimacy of loved bodies, the places created by phrases, in a way that opens the world wider, and changes it.

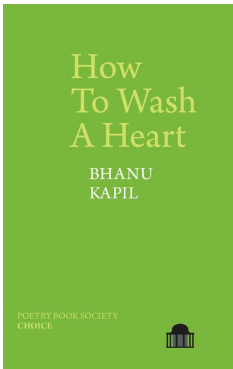
## Rhian Edwards The Estate Agent's Daughter

The poems featured are beautifully observed, close-to-the-bone and frequently very funny.



## Inua Ellams The Actual

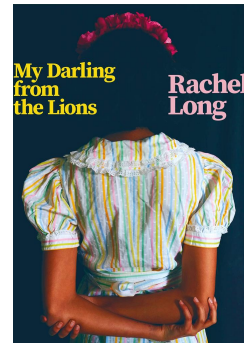
These are poems of personal and political fury, sometimes probing delicately, sometimes burning with raw energy.



## Bhanu Kapil

### How to Wash a Heart

Kapil asks urgent questions about the limits of hospitality, using poetry as a mode that is rigorous, painful, tender and comic.



## Rachel Long

### My Darling from the Lions

A beautiful and expansive archive of growing up in London as a young mixed heritage woman.



## Don Paterson

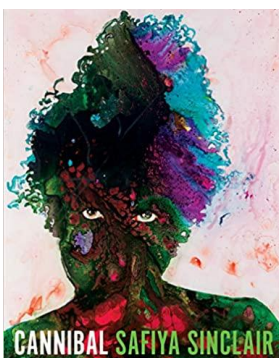
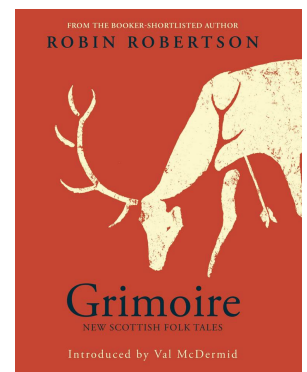
### Zonal

An experiment in science-fictional and fantastic autobiography.

## Robin Robertson

### Grimoire

A dark collection of 'New Scottish Folktales': tales of murder and madness, obsession and possession, and most of all, of magical transformation and mutability.



## Safiya Sinclair

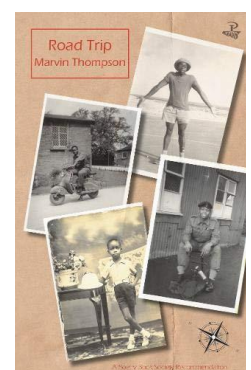
### Cannibal

These poems beautifully evoke the poet's Jamaican childhood and reach beyond to explore history, race relations in America, womanhood, otherness and exile.

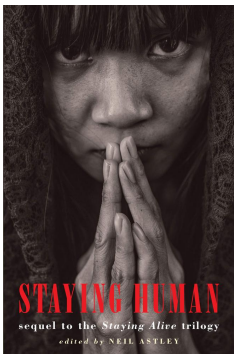
## Marvin Thompson

### Road Trip

From a poet of Jamaican heritage, born and raised in north London, living in south Wales.



# RECOMMENDED FOR BOOK GROUPS



**Neil Astley (Editor)**

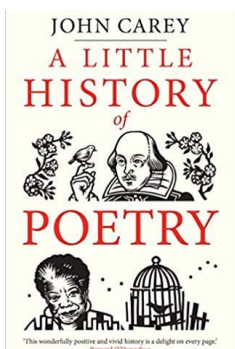
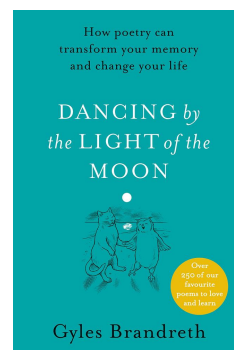
## **Staying Human: New Poems for Staying Alive**

This timely collection includes poems that tackle the particular challenges of our moment, including racism, ecological crisis and even the coronavirus pandemic.

**Gyles Brandreth**

## **Dancing by the Light of the Moon**

You'll find 250 of the nation's favourite poems to enjoy and learn, the science to explain what poetry does to our brains, and the tricks to help you remember them – from a haiku to a sonnet to an epic.



**John Carey**

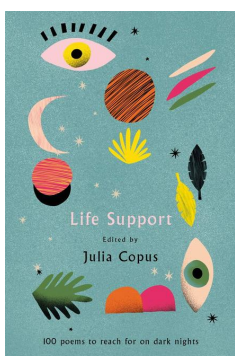
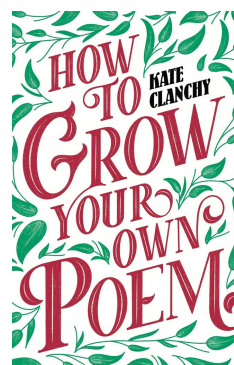
## **A Little History of Poetry**

Introduces some of the greatest poems ever written, explaining the contexts in which they were written and received as well as the reasons they remain so powerful today.

**Kate Clanchy**

## **How to Grow Your Own Poem**

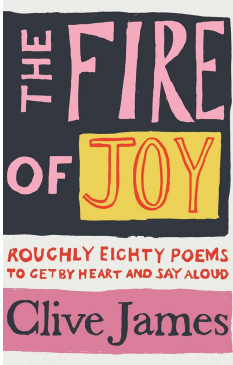
Shares poems and exercises which have been inspirational in helping new writers to build their own creative practices. Whatever your level of experience, you're invited to read, think and write along.



**Julia Copus (Editor)**

## **Life Support: 100 Poems to Reach for on Dark Nights**

The range of work here is extremely diverse in style and subject and includes both well-known classics and recent work from exciting contemporary poets.

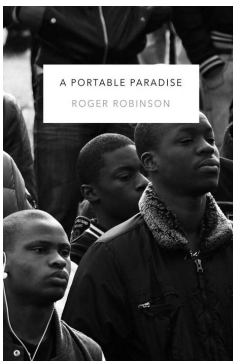
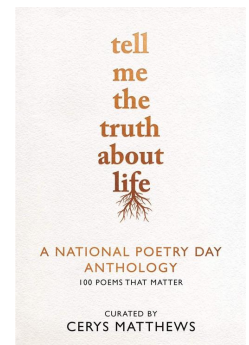


## Clive James The Fire of Joy

A selection of the poems Clive James treasured most, presented in chronological order alongside personal commentaries.

## Cerys Matthews (Editor) Tell Me the Truth About Life

This indispensable anthology is built on poetry's power to capture and convey truth.

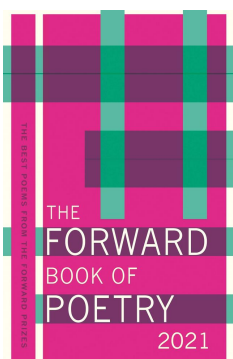
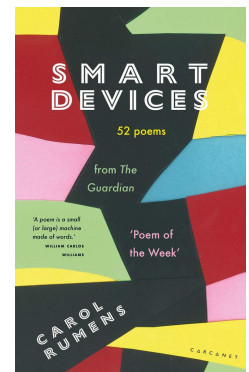


## Roger Robinson A Portable Paradise

A powerful exploration of grief and survival, depicting the racism, inequality and injustice of modern Britain in its many forms.

## Carol Rumens (Editor) Smart Devices: 52 Poems from The Guardian 'Poem of the Week'

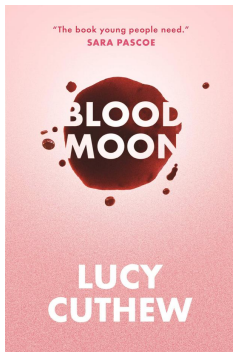
A dazzling array of contemporary poetry and mini-essays.



## Chosen by the Judges of the Forward Prizes 2020 The Forward Book of Poetry 2021

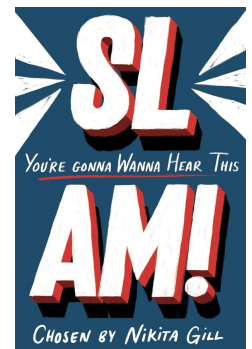
Here you'll find selections from the collections shortlisted for the 2020 Forward Prizes alongside highly commended work.

# RECOMMENDED FOR YOUNG ADULTS



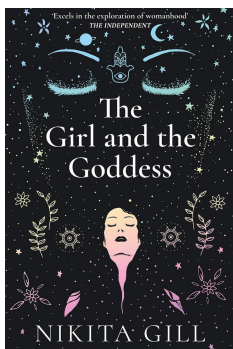
## Lucy Cuthew Blood Moon

A vivid and funny novel in verse about first-time love, hormone-fuelled sexuality and female friendship.



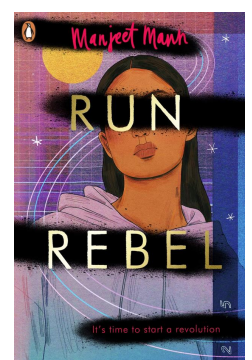
## Nikita Gill (Editor) SLAM! You're Gonna Wanna Hear This

A joyful celebration of the ground-breaking poets making their voices heard in the spoken word scene.



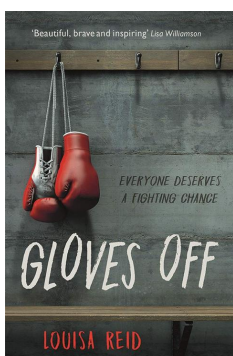
## Nikita Gill The Girl and the Goddess

Follow the inspirational journey of a young girl into fearless womanhood, guided by powerful deities along the way.



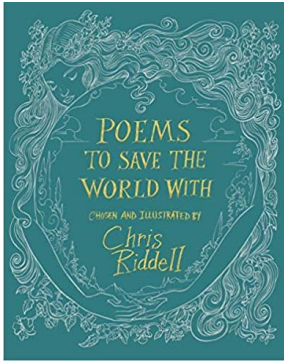
## Manjeet Mann Run, Rebel

A novel in verse about being torn between two cultures.



## Louisa Reid Gloves Off

Tells the story of Lily who takes up boxing in an attempt to fight back against bullying at school.

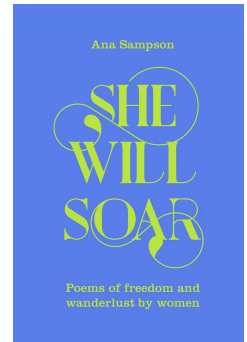


## Chris Riddell Poems to Save the World With

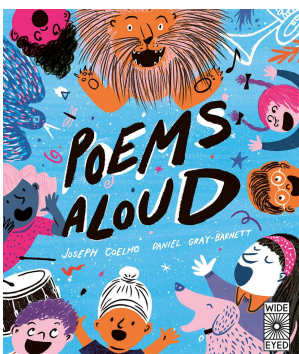
Chris Riddell has selected and illustrated his favourite classic and modern poems.

## Ana Sampson She Will Soar

Features 150 poems about wanderlust, freedom and escape written by women.



## RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN



## Joseph Coelho Poems Aloud

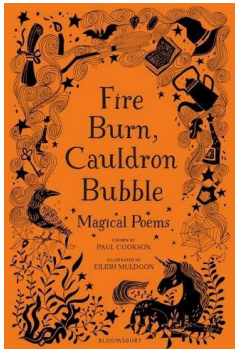
Perfect for confident children and shy readers alike, this book teaches all sorts of clever ways to perform poetry.

## Joseph Coelho Zombierella: Fairytales Gone Bad

A yellow moon hangs in a satin sky on the night that Cinderella, barefoot and in hand-me-downs, slips at the top of the stairs... and dies. But not for long.





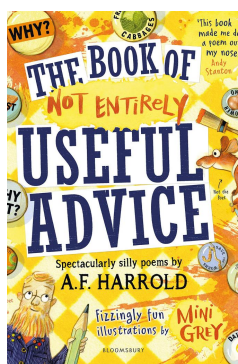
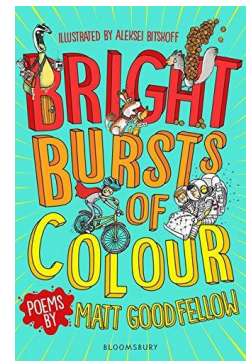


**Paul Cookson (Editor)**  
**Fire Burn, Cauldron Bubble: Magical Poems**

From magic carpets and wands to unicorns, potions, creams and lotions, Paul Cookson's brewing a spell of fantastically magic poems.

**Matt Goodfellow**  
**Bright Bursts of Colour**

What if cats had flavoured fur or if you swallowed the sun? What if you were a special kind of badger or if you found a map to the stars?

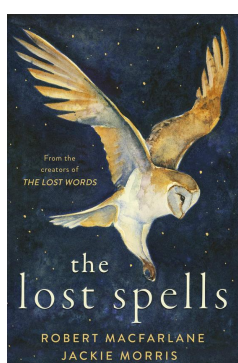
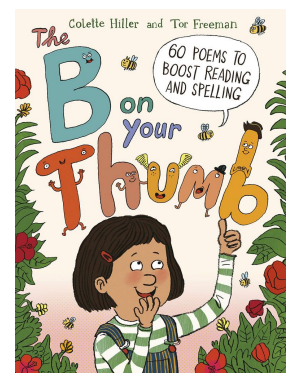


**A F Harrold**  
**The Book of Not Entirely Useful Advice**

A riotous celebration of words and a modern take on cautionary tales.

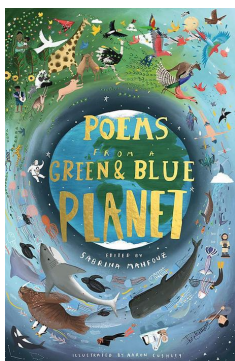
**Colette Hiller**  
**The B on Your Thumb**

Sixty hilariously illustrated rhymes and delightful ditties to boost early reading – each poem teaches a specific sound, spelling or rule. Using rhythm and wordplay, they promote phonics awareness, thinking skills and literacy.



**Robert Macfarlane**  
**The Lost Spells**

A pocket-sized treasure, a new collection of 'spells' in the form of acrostic poetry and artwork.

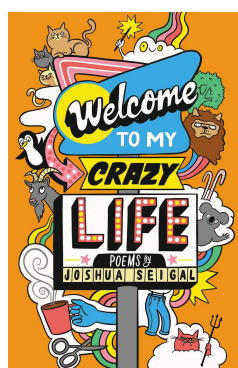
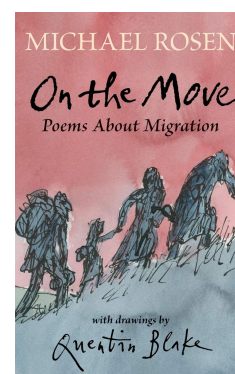


## Sabrina Mahfouz (Editor) Poems from a Green and Blue Planet

Dive into this book and be swept away on a journey around our green and blue planet, from the peak of the snowiest mountain top to the bottom of the deepest, bluest ocean.

## Michael Rosen On the Move: Poems About Migration

Michael Rosen and Sir Quentin Blake join forces for a landmark new collection, focusing on migration and displacement.

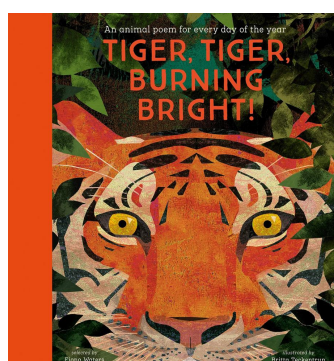
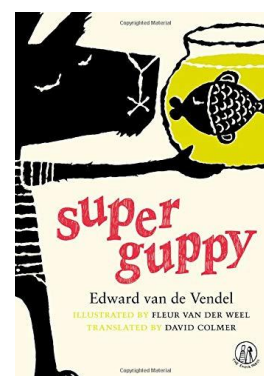


## Joshua Seigal Welcome to My Crazy Life

With poems on every topic from demon cats to why you should NEVER forget your trousers.

## Edward van de Vendel Super Guppy: Poems for Children

A funny, contemporary collection that will appeal to curious children who have questions about how the world, and everything in it, works.



## Fiona Waters (Editor) Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright!

This lavishly illustrated collection of 366 animal poems – one for every day of the year – ranges from unforgettable classics to contemporary works from around the world, including poetry in translation.