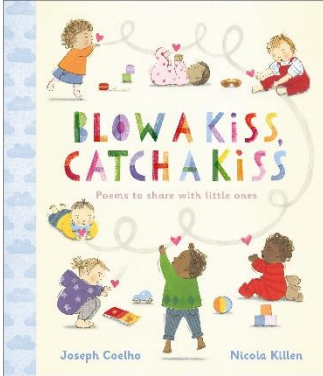
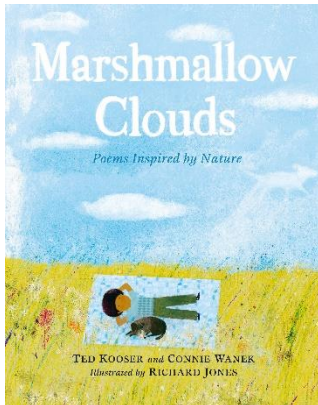


CLIPPA 2023: The Shortlist



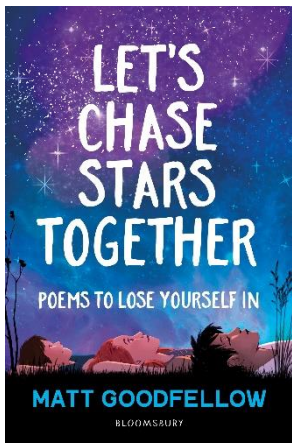
Blow A Kiss, Catch A Kiss by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Nicola Killen
Andersen Press, 9781839131363

A wonderfully well-written and well-considered collection for very young children from the 2022-24 Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho. Subtitled 'Poems to share with little ones', this collection is divided into four sections – All About Me, Out and About, What Do I Feel?, and At Home – and covers a wide breadth of topics that sing to the world and experiences of the audience. The rhymes and rhythms of Coelho's language are joyously inviting, and pair perfectly with Nicola Killen's inclusive illustrations. An ideal book for helping young readers to connect with the world around them and starting them off on their lifelong reading journey.



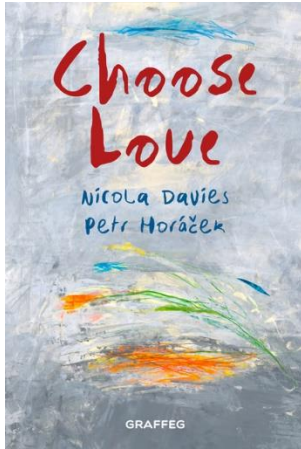
Marshmallow Clouds: Poems Inspired by Nature by Ted Kooser and Connie Wanek, illustrated by Richard Jones
Walker, 9781529507072

An elegantly produced book with beautifully crafted verse, and evocative illustrations that sit in pleasing harmony with the text. The nature poems in this book range from the minutiae to the elemental, an all-encompassing journey through the natural world that deserves to be luxuriated in. The language is imaginative, intelligent, and often playful, lending itself in equal measure to close considered reading, and reading aloud and sharing. Such attentive care for its subject matter can't help but inspire the reader to engage with the nature on their own doorstep.



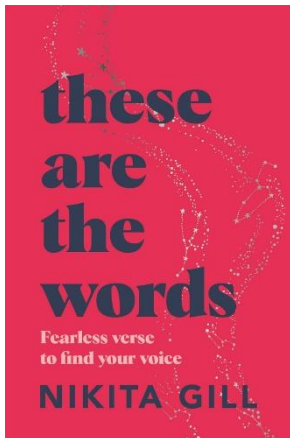
Let's Chase Stars Together by Matt Goodfellow, illustrated by Oriol Vidal
Bloomsbury, 9781472993847

This quietly presented collection speaks with care and consideration to its intended audience, not only in its topics and themes – such as friendships, loss, school, and growing up – but even more powerfully in showcasing the power of poetry to work through experiences and express emotions. The poems are relatable and accessible, set in the reality of their readers, meeting them there and speaking with and for them. Goodfellow's observational skills are precise yet imaginative, with exceptionally well-chosen metaphors throughout, plus plenty of humour. The book is subtitled 'Poems to lose yourself in' – the reader may well find themselves amongst its pages.



Choose Love by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Petr Horáček
Graffeg, 9781802583779

There is a political, passionate, and campaigning quality to ‘Choose Love’, which began life as part of a project with the charity Refugee Trauma Initiative. Presented in picturebook format, with immersive and compelling artwork by Petr Horáček, these poems dig deep into the complex issue of forced migration and find the humanity, often zeroing in on highly specific images with a fierce kind of empathy. The language is hard-hitting, but not at the expense of being beautiful – talking about these issues in an age-appropriate way inevitably leads to greater understanding. A brave and important work, written from the heart.



These Are The Words by Nikita Gill
Macmillan, 9781529083606

A lyrical and empowering collection for older readers – pre-teens and teenagers will find particular resonance in Gill’s compelling voice. The poems are arranged according to such themes as sisterhood, family, protest and healing, and although some difficult topics are addressed, a line of hope shines through. Much of the verse is written in second person, thereby speaking directly to the reader with love, support, and reassurance – the peritext, too, holds the readers emotions with care, opening with a content note and closing with a list of related charities. This is a book that serves as a friend or confidante to the reader, saying “here is a space just for you”.