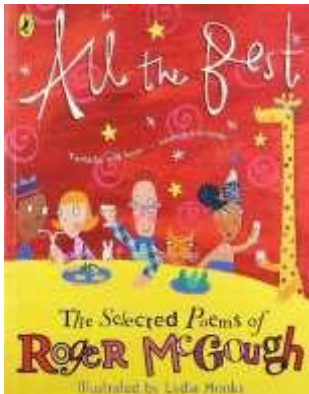


Author Focus

Roger McGough

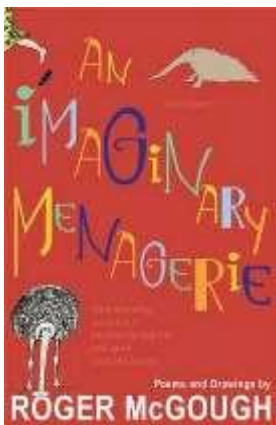
With their witty play on words, Roger McGough's poems amuse the reader whilst offering food for serious thought. Roger was made a CBE for his services to poetry. He was the chair of judges for CLiPPA, the CLPE Poetry Award, 2014 and 2015 and is a patron of CLPE. See www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poets/mcgough-roger for videos of Roger reading from his work.



***All the Best: The Selected Poems of Roger McGough* illustrated by Lydia Monks**

Puffin 9780141316376

An anthology drawn from several of Roger McGough's poetry collections for children, this book was the winner of the 2004 CLPE Poetry Award. There are no subject headings but themes can be discerned in the way poems are grouped together – school, sleep, seasons – gliding gracefully from one to the next. Humour which is sometimes macabre and wordplay which constantly surprises are central to Roger McGough's poetry to which Lydia Monks' bold black and white illustrations make an excellent complement.

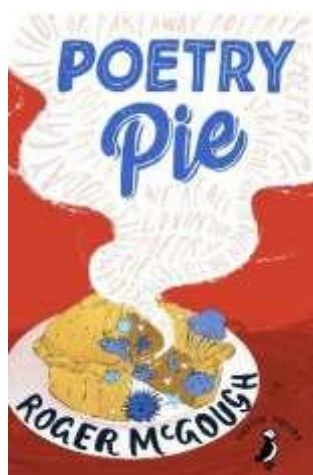


***An Imaginary Menagerie* illustrated by the author**

Frances Lincoln 9781847801661

An A to Z of amazing animals from Alligator, Anaconda, Angelfish and Aunt-Eater through to Zonk. We find out why Badgers have that distinctive white mark on their coats (it has something to do with the demise of the Goodgers) and why kiwis are earthbound. There is witty wordplay concerning lifesaving grey starlings who live on the Northumbrian coast and Dutch hamsters. Animals real and imagined gambol and glide, slither and slide through the pages. Also reissued by Frances Lincoln: *Lucky* 9781847803214





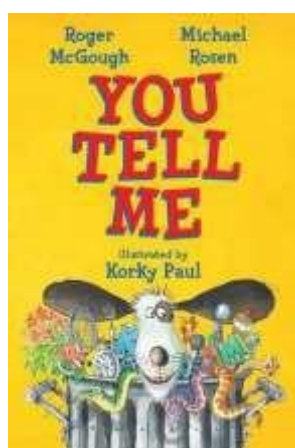
***Poetry Pie* illustrated by the author**

Puffin 9780141356860

Roger McGough's collection is an invitation to be excited about poetry and not be limited by the world: 'Let your imagination/Feed on the fantastic/Let it move like quicksilver/Stretch like elastic.' Some of the poems can be described as deconstructionalist, evidenced by two poems ending with the line 'Such is the power of poets', subverting certainty by choosing the viewpoint of an unlikely persona from which to write and asserting control and flexibility when making that choice. The poet plays with language, form and ideas – not just with poetry but with pineapples too – 'fearsome as a hand grenade'! As the title suggests, food is a subject often chewed upon throughout the collection whether it's the fate of a chip summed up in English and French, the difficulty of finding a rhyme for sausages or the delicious variety of ingredients that can be baked in a poetry pie.

Shortlisted for the 2016 CLIPPA.

See <https://www.clpe.org.uk/sites/default/files/Poetry%20Pie.pdf> for a teaching sequence for this book.

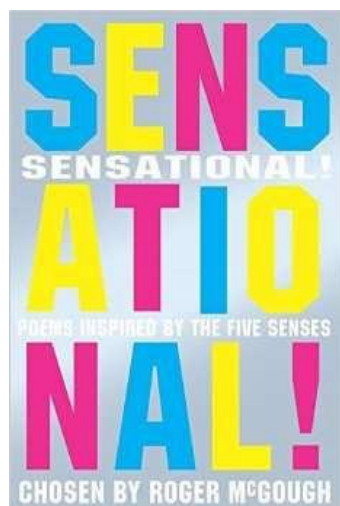


***You Tell Me!* with Michael Rosen, illustrated by Korky Paul**

Frances Lincoln 9781847804440

A new edition of this poetry collection including some additional poems. The wordplay of 'Gruesome' makes you laugh out loud with delight, while older children will smilingly recall how confusing life and language seemed on their 'First Day at School' when they read Roger McGough's gentle poem. Fresh illustrations highlight the humour of the poems, lightening the darkness of some of them, not least 'The Lesson', a poem apparently about a teacher at the end of his tether with brutal consequences. For the benefit of those immune to irony, this now has a new two line introduction which serves as a 'warning' for oversensitive adults and is accompanied by a picture which suggests an alternative interpretation to the content of the poem. It is cleverly juxtaposed with a new poem which mocks those who expect all literature for children to be anodyne and innocuous.





***Sensational! Poems Inspired by the Five Senses*, edited by Roger McGough, illustrated by Sara Fanelli**

Macmillan 9780330413442

An imaginative thematic poetry anthology featuring sections on sight, sound, touch, smell and taste. Roger McGough's interpretation of the theme is wide as the range of emotions revealed, from the humour of 'The Itch' by Michael Rosen to the moving 'Uncle Edward's Affliction' by Vernon Scannell. The poems in the Sight section are about looking and the way things look, many exploring colour. Meanwhile, over in Taste, food and rituals associated with eating are included along with the way it tastes. The arrangement is such that links are often made between consecutive poems: Wes Magee's 'What is ... the Sun?' follows 'Eclipse' by F.R. Scott (Sight); Lilian Moore's 'Snowy Morning' follows Berlie Doherty's 'Quieter than Snow' (Sound); in the Taste section poems featuring ice-cream segue into several where chocolate is a significant ingredient. The poems are well presented, each being given its own page, and Sara Fanelli's quirky ink drawings are sparsely scattered throughout. Winner of the 2005 CLPE Poetry Award.

A teaching sequence for this book can be found here:

<https://www.clpe.org.uk/sites/default/files/Sensational%21%20Teaching%20Sequence.pdf>

You may also want to explore Roger McGough's poetry for adults. His ***Collected Poems*** (Penguin 9780141014555) was first published in 2003 and since then ***That Awkward Age*** (Penguin 9780141042022), ***As Far as I Know*** (Penguin 9780241962275) and ***It Never Rains*** (Penguin 9780241971420) have appeared. Readers may also like to return to ***The Mersey Sound***, the book he produced with Adrian Henri and Brian Patten, both of whom have also written poetry for children and adults, and which is now, in a revised edition, a Penguin Modern Classic (Penguin 9780141189260).

