

Poetry stimulates thought, explores ideas, expresses emotions and reflects human experience. With its memorable use of language it models writing and inspires creativity.

For many, the enjoyment of sharing and reading poetry can provide a way in to a lifetime of reading for pleasure. So let's have more poetry please!

STARTING OUT

Now that Rhyme Time has become hugely popular in public libraries, young families have the opportunity to discover and enjoy old and new rhymes together. The books in this section include collections of traditional nursery rhymes, anthologies of first poetry and rhyming stories.

Blue Balloons and Rabbit Ears

by Hilda Offen (author and illustrator)

Troika Books

9781909991033

The imaginative experiences of childhood are celebrated in this appealing collection of original nursery rhymes and poems.

The Cat and the Fiddle: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes

by Jackie Morris

Frances Lincoln

9781847804157

This dazzling collection of nursery rhymes including some popular and some not so well-known traditional verse is lavishly illustrated with Morris' magnificent full page watercolours.

Everyone was a Baby Once

by Allan Ahlberg and Bruce Ingman (illustrator)

Walker

9781406330007

A welcome collection of new poems by Ahlberg and "classic verse" from "Anon" is enriched by Ingman's witty illustrations as sausages, snowmen and babies roll across the page celebrating childhood.

A Great Big Cuddle

by Michael Rosen (author) and Chris Riddell (illustrator)

Walker

9781406343199

This inspired collaboration between two Children's Laureates is generously illustrated, ideal for reading aloud and a perfect book for sharing as it sensitively explores the world of the very young.

Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry

Collected by Jane Yolen, Andrew Fusek Peters and

Polly Dunbar (illustrator)

Walker

9781406327113

Over sixty poems by contemporary English and American writers describe the experiences of the very young in a big, beautifully illustrated book for under eights.

Jack and the Flumflum Tree

by Julia Donaldson and David Roberts (illustrator)

Macmillan Children's Books

9780330504065

When Jack's granny falls ill with the moozles, Jack and his friends set out on a voyage to bring back the only cure in a rollicking picture book with a rhyming text and lots of laughs.