

**ClassDescription**

**Entry Fee**

**U51** Solo Verse Speaking, Non-Open

**\$145**

**E51** Primary 1 and 2, Boys

**K51** *Auntie Betty Thinks She's Batgirl by Andrea Shavick*

**Y51** Read Me 2 – Chosen by Gaby Morgan, page 198  
Macmillan ISBN 9780330391320

- First line: Auntie Betty pulls her cloak on
- Last line: To make our world a better place.

**Auntie Betty Thinks She's Batgirl**

Auntie Betty pulls her cloak on  
And the mask – the one with ears.  
Almost ready, check the lipstick,  
Wait until the neighbours cheer.  
Through the window. What a leap!  
She lands right in the driver's seat.  
Off she goes with style and grace  
To make our world a better place.

Andrea Shavick

**U52** Solo Verse Speaking, Non-Open

\$145

**E52** Primary 1 and 2, Boys

**K52** *Uncle Ben from Number One by Brian Patten*

**Y52**

The Puffin Book of Utterly Brilliant Poetry – Edited by Brian Patten, page 101

Puffin ISBN 9780140384215

- First line: Uncle Ben was not a hen
- Last line: Where he had it, fried.

## Uncle Ben From Number One

Uncle Ben was not a hen  
But when he laid an egg  
He did it quite professionally  
By lifting up a leg.

He studied it and prodded it  
And said, 'I'm mystified.'  
And then he took it  
to the kitchen  
Where he had it, fried.

Brian Patten

A Million Brilliant Poems (Part One) – Chosen by Roger Stevens, page 27  
Bloomsbury ISBN 9781408123942

- First line: Don't be so glum,
- Last line: a whole new tree.

## Plum

Don't be so glum,  
plum.

Don't feel beaten.

You were made  
to be eaten.

But don't you know  
that deep within,  
beneath your juicy flesh  
and flimsy skin,

you bear a mystery,  
you hold a key,

you have the making of  
a whole new tree.

Tony Mitton

E54 Primary 3, Boys

K54 *Strangeways* by Roger McGough

Y54 The Puffin Book of Utterly Brilliant Poetry – Edited by Brian Patten, page 70

Puffin ISBN 9780140384215

- First 2 lines: Granny's canary  
Escaped from its cage
- Last line: In very strange ways.

## Strangeways

Granny's canary  
Escaped from its cage  
It's up on the roof  
In a terrible rage

Hurling abuse  
And making demands  
That granny fails  
To understand

'Lack of privacy'  
'Boring old food'  
It holds up placards  
Painted and rude

It's not coming down  
The canary warns  
Till gran carries out  
Major reforms.

The message has spread  
And now for days  
Cage-birds have been acting  
In very strange ways.

Roger McGough

E55 Primary 4, Boys

K55 *Roots by Steve Turner*

Y55 A Million Brilliant Poems (Part One) – Chosen by Roger Stevens, page 26

Bloomsbury ISBN 9781408123942

- First line: It's quiet job
- Last 2 lines: Everyone  
needs roots.

## Roots

It's a quiet job  
being a root.  
No one hugs you,  
climbs you  
or praises your  
intricate ways.

Roots work  
in the dark.  
And it's hard work  
tunnelling,  
travelling,  
finding nutrition.

But when  
the storms come  
it's our fingers  
which cling.  
When the drought comes  
it's our lips  
that drink.

Without us  
the ground would crumble.  
Without us  
Life would fall.

Everyone  
needs roots.

**Steve Turner**

Macmillan ISBN 9780330391320

- First line: I wish I'd made a list
- Last line: I wish I'd made a list!

(This poem consists of 5 stanzas.)

## No Bread

I wish I'd made a list  
I forgot to get the bread.  
I'll be dead.

We had blank and butter pudding,  
beans on zip.  
Boiled egg with deserters,  
no chip butty: just chip.

I wish I'd made a list  
I forgot to get the bread.  
My mam got the empty bread bin  
and wrapped it round my head.

Our jam sarnies were just jam  
floating on the air.  
We spread butter on the table  
cos the bread wasn't there.

My mam says if I run away  
she knows I won't be missed,  
not like the bread was ...  
I wish I'd made a list!

Ian McMillan

E57 Primary 5, Boys

K57 *Henry King* by *Hilaire Belloc*

Y57 Read Me 2 – Chosen by Gaby Morgan, page 412

Macmillan ISBN 9780330391320

- First line: The Chief Defect of Henry King
- Last line: With that the Wretched Child expires.  
(Lines beneath the title should be spoken.)

## Henry King

*Who chewed bits of string, and was early cut off in Dreadful Agonies.*

The Chief Defect of Henry King  
Was chewing little bits of string.  
At last he swallowed some which tied  
Itself in ugly Knots inside.  
Physicians of the Utmost Fame  
Were called at once; but when they came  
They answered, as they took their Fees,  
“There is no Cure for this Disease.  
Henry will very soon be dead.”  
His Parents stood about his Bed  
Lamenting his Untimely Death,  
When Henry with his Latest Breath,  
Cried: “Oh, my Friends, be warned by me,  
That Breakfast, Dinner, Lunch and Tea  
Are all the Human Frame requires . . .”  
With that the Wretched Child expires.

Hilaire Belloc

- First line: There's something very strange and odd
- Last line: He rather gets upon your nerves.

## The Cod

There's something very strange and odd  
About the habits of the Cod.

For when you're swimming in the sea,  
He sometimes bites you on the knee.

And though his bites are not past healing,  
It is a most unpleasant feeling.

And when you're diving down below,  
He often nips you on the toe.

And though he doesn't hurt you much,  
He has a disagreeable touch.

There's one thing to be said for him, -  
It is a treat to see him swim.

But though he swims in graceful curves,  
He rather gets upon your nerves.

Lord Alfred Douglas

**U59** Solo Verse Speaking, Non-Open

**\$145**

**E59** Primary 6, Boys

**K59** *The Frog who Dreamed she was an Opera Singer by Jackie Kay*

**Y59** Read Me 2 – Chosen by Gaby Morgan, page 100

Macmillan ISBN 9780330391320

- First line: There once was a frog
- Last line: That frog was a green prima donna.

## **The Frog who Dreamed she was an Opera Singer**

There once was a frog  
who dreamed she was an opera singer.  
She wished so hard she grew a long throat  
and a beautiful polkadot green coat  
and intense opera singer's eyes.  
She even put on a little weight.  
But she couldn't grow tall.  
She just couldn't grow tall.  
She leaped to the Queen Elizabeth Hall,  
practising her sonata all the way.  
Her voice was promising and lovely.  
She couldn't wait to leapfrog onto the stage.  
What a presence on the stage!  
All the audience in the Queen Elizabeth Hall  
gasped to see one so small sing like that.  
Her voice trembled and swelled  
and filled with colour.  
That frog was a green prima donna.

**Jackie Kay**

Bloomsbury ISBN 9781408123942

- First line: I've always had a liking for the Viking;
- Last line: To his final feast in glorious Valhalla.

## A Liking for the Viking

I've always had a liking for the Viking;  
His handsome horns; his rough and ready ways;  
His rugged russet hair beneath his helmet  
In those metal-rattle, battle-happy days.

I've always had a longing for a longboat:  
To fly like a dragon through the sea  
To peaceful evenings round a real fire.  
Alive with legend; rich with poetry.

I've always had a yearning for the burning  
Of brave flames irradiating valour;  
For the fiery longboat carrying its chieftain  
To his final feast in glorious Valhalla.

Celia Warren