



A POEM FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
ALLIE ESIRI
2017
PRINT & ONLINE
COVERAGE

It's the time for badass rebel women like us

HELENA Bonham Carter and Allie Esiri have united to take poetry out of the hands of dead white men, says Katie Law

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...spermi prefer abalone. They're also quicker and they're off quicker, whereas women do a gentle, graceful manoeuvre. It's the ocean and the lure to be a girl, you should start having sex a day or two before coitus. For a boy you have sex on the day."

"Do you really want the poem in the Evening Standard?" Esiri quizzed her friend. "I'm sure everyone knows it anyway," comes the charmingly unapologetic 'who cares?' reply. The only subject Bonham Carter says she is not prepared to talk about is her relationship with Tim Burton, from whom she finally split in 2011 after their seven-month, 11-year relationship.

Producing a well-thumbed copy of *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*, Bonham Carter then asks if it'll be to have her read aloud "as a little present." She and Russell Book split the workload of who would read what pretty evenly, she says, although "when we got to ours, I couldn't do, like Chaucer, I said, could you just give that to Simon?"

As well as classics that we all know and love, the anthology includes a decent proportion of poems by women and BAME writers, and Esiri has written a short introduction to every single one. "I wasn't doing positive discrimination but there are so many anthologies made up of 99 per cent dead, white, male poets and it's just not necessary," says Esiri.

Puffing on thick reading spectacles, her recent nose-ridge breast surgery hasn't worked. Bonham Carter begins with a poem called *Therapeutic* by Eve Merriam.

"It's a bit like getting for a man, in the car or going for a walk. You see people with cigarettes in and they're not necessarily smoking; it's just a prop and an addiction."

The other big game-changer, says Bonham Carter, are poetry slams, which have become mainstream since "because rap these days is also poetry", and she shows that in an early Louise Erlet's poem, namely *Madness*. "She has already given the well-out music of the 60s and 70s a different lease."

"It's extraordinary and brilliant, written in this grammatical, academic language that makes it accessible to everyone. My nine-year-old daughter has learned the opening lines off by heart. When you hear the way the words are put together, you'll be, God what's genius. It's taking some part of the human condition and putting it in a sentence. There are so many lines I kept on writing down, even though I know they'll never be published, and it's just rage."

While Bonham Carter's nose project is awaiting the results from the NHS, an all female poetry anthology will focus entirely on women poets. "I think of the modern, what, women," she muses. "But then I think about that's a great idea and on one, but let's take 'what, it's not a poem'."

Esiri says she partly explains the rise of the walkabout in the last couple of years. "It's a reaction to whether it's an eight, 10 or 12."

Sainsbury's
Live well for less

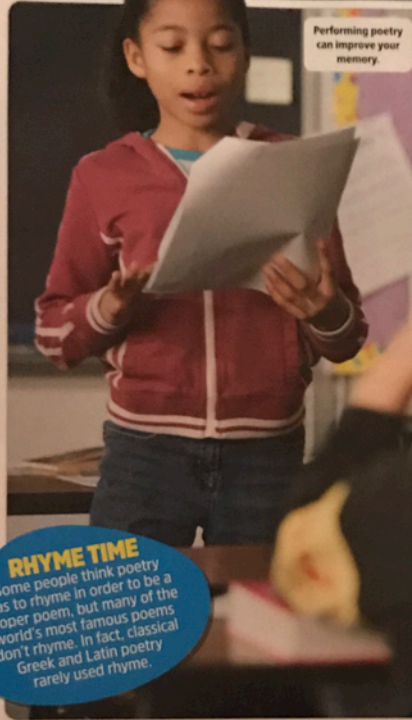
r, epic feasting, belt releasing, puds amazing, in-laws praising, s

#everybitofChristmas
is living well

The Evening Standard, 11 December



Do something



Performing poetry can improve your memory.

"I enjoyed the applause from the audience"

"I won a big poetry award when I was eight. When I won the prize, I was asked by the organisers if I could read my poem on stage. I was nervous but gave it my best shot and enjoyed the applause from the audience. There was no looking back."

Name: Iona
Year: 7

"I find performing poetry an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Taking pride in your work and reading it aloud to win love and appreciation from the audience can be addictive."

"It's a great feeling when your poem connects with the audience. I think it's a great way to boost your confidence. Just give it a go: the first time can make you anxious but with practice and time you get better."



WHO, WHAT, WHERE

How should I start?

Make things easy for yourself by starting with a rhyming, easy-to-learn poem that you can have some fun with. Esiri recommends *On The Ning-Nang-Nong* by Spike Milligan or *The Owl and the Pussycat* by Edward Lear.



Who can help me?

For some extra help, download the Poems app from the Apple App Store. It has 270 poems and audio readings by actors including Helena Bonham-Carter. You can search by author or theme, and record yourself and hear your voice played back.

What should I read?

Allie Esiri's *A Poem for Every Day of the Year* has 366 great poems, whether a funny one for April Fool's Day, a festive one for Christmas or a moving one for World Refugee Day. It also teaches you about important events through the year.

Learn more...

- Visit poetrysociety.org.uk to find challenges for young poets.
- If you want to enter some tournaments, check out poetrylibrary.org.uk/learning/children/competitions/. To enter *The Week Junior's* poetry-writing contest, see page 25.



RHYME TIME
Some people think poetry has to rhyme in order to be a proper poem, but many of the world's most famous poems don't rhyme. In fact, classical Greek and Latin poetry rarely used rhyme.

Do you love poems and sharing them with the world? Why not try...

Performing poetry

Have you ever had to learn a poem for school and recite it in front of your friends? If so, well done – you're already a pro at performing poetry.

Performing poetry is simply learning a poem and reading it aloud, whether in front of friends, family or a bigger audience. It can be a poem you've written or learnt. The main thing is that you enjoy it, whether you're learning a nonsense poem, a rhyme to make a friend laugh or a more serious piece to commemorate an event.

"Choose a poem you like, and it will be a lot more fun to learn," says Allie Esiri, poetry expert and editor of *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*. "When starting off, you could choose a poem with a rhyme to make it easier to commit to memory."

So is performing poetry just about fun? Although it should be all about enjoying yourself, it can also provide you with lots of valuable tools for the future. It can help you build confidence, boost your memory and also improve

your English writing skills, because the more you do it the more comfortable you'll become playing with words and phrases.

Worried you might find it difficult? Esiri says you shouldn't worry. "It's no different to learning a football chant, a nursery rhyme or a song," she says. "It becomes easier and easier with practice. It's good memory training and it's great for the mind. And, of course, it's so much fun: it's like having a whole iPod full of poems in your head."

How to...

Make reflective cityscapes

What you need

- Paper
- Felt tips
- Paintbrush
- Water

Instructions

Fold a piece of paper in half horizontally and then unfold it. Draw a cityscape along the top. Make it as colourful as you like. Use a paintbrush to paint on a bit of water on the bottom part of the folded paper. A little goes a long way, so don't soak the paper with water. Then fold up the paper onto the coloured-in part of your drawing. Press down for a minute, unfold and, hey presto, there is your reflection! Why not try to create different cityscapes by looking at pictures of famous places across the world?



Got an idea? Made something cool? Share it with us at hello@theweekjunior.co.uk



COMPETITION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



SHEAFFER
Pen & Art Supply Co.

Write a poem on freedom for a chance to win prizes.

Would you like to see your poem published in *The Week Junior*? To celebrate National Poetry Day, this year *The Week Junior* has joined forces with Sheaffer pens to launch a nationwide poetry competition. It's easy to enter – all you have to do is write a poem of no more than 100

words on the theme of "freedom", which is the topic of National Poetry Day 2017. Your poem can take any form – from a 17-syllable haiku to an acrostic (when the letters at the start of each line spell out the word FREEDOM) to a traditional rhyming verse or even a rap.



THE PRIZES

First prize

The overall winner's poem will be published in *The Week Junior* and the winner will receive a Sheaffer goody bag worth £200, a £50 Amazon gift card and a hardback copy of *A Poem For Every Day of the Year* – a collection of poetry edited by Allie Esiri and published by PanMacmillan.

Runners-up

Two runners-up will each receive a Sheaffer goody bag worth £100, a £25 Amazon gift card and a hardback copy of *A Poem For Every Day of the Year* – a collection of poetry edited by Allie Esiri and published by PanMacmillan.



HOW TO ENTER

Your poems can be submitted by email to competitions@theweekjunior.co.uk with the subject line PEN A POEM or they can be posted to: Pen a Poem competition, The Week Junior, Dennis Publishing, 31-32 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7DP.

All entries MUST include the following information:

- Your full name and age
- Your parent or carer's name
- Your parent/carer's telephone number
- Parent/carer's email address

Please ensure that you have your parent or carer's permission to enter.

CLOSING DATE

The competition closing date is midnight on Friday 20 October 2017. For full terms and conditions go to theweekjunior.co.uk/terms

Poetry

The Poem: 'But I Can't' by WH Auden

From 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year'

SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 by: WH Auden

Time will say nothing but I told you so,
Time only knows the price we have to pay;
If I could tell you I would let you know.

If we should weep when clowns put on their show,
If we should stumble when musicians play,
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

There are no fortunes to be told, although,
Because I love you more than I can say,
If I could tell you I would let you know.

The winds must come from somewhere when they blow,
There must be reason why the leaves decay;
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

Perhaps the roses really want to grow,
The vision seriously intends to stay;
If I could tell you I would let you know.

Suppose the lions all get up and go,
And the brooks and soldiers run away;
Will Time say nothing but I told you so?
If I could tell you I would let you know.

From 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year', edited by Allie Esiri (Pan Macmillan, £16.99). Actors Tamsin Greig and Sanjeev Bhaskar will join Allie Esiri at the FT Weekend Festival, September 2, at Kenwood House, London. www.ftweekendfestival.com

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18th September

Poem of the Day: Plums by Gillian Clarke

Lesley Duncan
Poetry Editor

THE Victoria plums of the Clyde Valley were a special treat of childhood. Gillian Clarke, the Welsh National Poet, obviously shares the enthusiasm for the fruit, at its prime this month.

Her plum paeon is a September choice in the splendid new compendium, *A Poem for Every Day of the Year* (edited by Allie Esiri, Macmillan Children's Books, £16.99, hardback). There is material for all ages.

PLUMS

When their time comes they fall
without wind, without **rain**.
They seep through the trees' muslin
in a slow fermentation.

The Herald, 9 September 2017

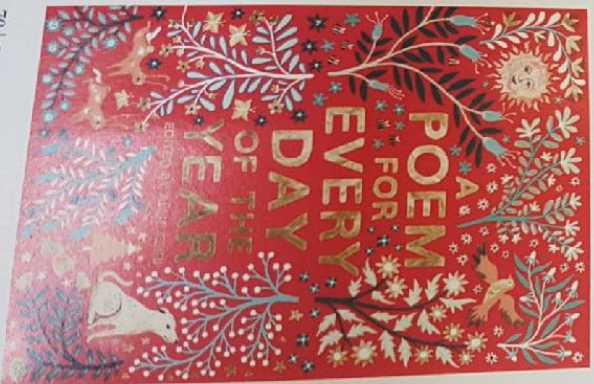
POETRY
**TREAD
 SOFTLY**

We all need more poetry in our lives, says **Allie Esiri**

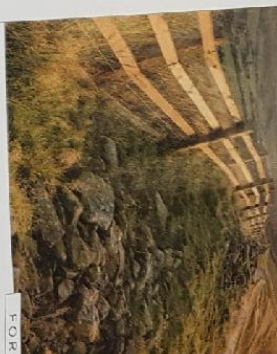
A Poem for Every Day of the Year is a collection of 366 poems. In compiling this book, I wanted to remind people of something that's often forgotten: poetry is there to enjoy. Some poems give us strength, some take us to the heart of a battle and others make us double up with laughter. Some will tell you fascinating things you didn't know before, and others dazzle you with their beauty. There are poems here that do all of this and more – the very best of words in their very best outfits, which will clad your heart with beauty.

Each poem sits in this anthology on a particular date for a particular reason – it might be because it's the Glorious Twelfth, or the date of the Battle of Waterloo, or Christmas. Think of your daily poem as a morning shot of espresso, a boost of words for the day ahead. I've chosen poems from familiar favourites, such as T.S. Eliot, John Betjeman and Lewis Carroll, to a modern poem now storming the spoken-word stages of the UK: Kate Tempest.

My hope is that you discover, as Dylan Thomas said, that 'poems make your toemahs twinkle'.



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FOR
THE TA
 by W

*Upl' up! my Friends, and quit your be
 Or surely you'll grow double:
 Upl' up! my Friends, and clear your
 Why all this toil and trouble?*

*The sun, above the mountain's h
 A freshening lustre mellow
 Through all the long green fields ha
 His first sweet evening yellow*



*Green is the plane-tree
 The other trees a
 They droop and pine
 The plane-tree lov
 Here, from my garre
 The plane-tree bu
 Shed her recupe
 And spread her*

My family values

Tony Blackburn
Radio 4

I don't have a hard back story because I had a wonderful upbringing in Poole, Dorset, and my parents, Freddie and Pamela, were good, decent people and brought me up to be kind to others. They weren't rich but I never wanted to rebel because I had nothing to rebel against. They instilled strong moral values in me.

My father was a GP with a wonderful sense of humour. His patients would say, "What a great doctor your father is." He was one of those old-fashioned doctors who would come out to see you if you rang him in the middle of the night. He'd even perform minor operations. He was a big soul, made his bed and he stuck to it. He was a particular Jack. My father's best friend, which was the only soul I could be bad to, he played it non-stop. He could also be serious and he followed news of what was happening in the world.

My parents met at the hospital where my mother worked as a nurse. She gave up work to look after us. She was always there when I got home from school and she was a mother to us.

I went to a good boarding school, which I don't think I should mention because I don't want to brag. I was there for two years. Dad went to the other three though he was doing one at home. My parents have, I think been how much I'd achieved it. He said it was a shame and that I should have told him at the time because he never intended to read me any. I just wanted to spend that time with my family.

I didn't want to go into medicine. But my parents expected me from that point of view. I was going to go into law. My father had a great sense of humour and he had a sense of what he could hear my father on Radio 4.



Tony Blackburn and, above, on Radio 4 in 1997

I didn't like boarding school. I just wanted to spend that time with my family

Jackie was born with infantile paralysis and she's always been in a wheelchair. When my parents were alive, I said to them, "I'd always had a kind, loving, warm my love with my wife. Debbie, but she's not. But she chose to remain and my wife she has lots of friends. But she never complains. Her attitude to her life has altered my outlook on life. I have an amazing admiration for Jackie and I'm very close to her.

It was great becoming a father. My daughter, Victoria, 20, is an actress and dancer and she's been with me all the way through life. Simon, 44, who works in advertising, was three when his mother and I divorced. He lived with her and I saw him every weekend. It was tough taking Simon back on Sundays and I always feel him first for the 17 years between my two marriages. Victoria and Simon are both good and thoughtful people. I've passed on the values my parents gave me to them. All I said was try to get a job where you're happy, don't get involved with drugs, avoid smoking and don't get a tattoo.

My father died before he was 70 and my mother got cancer, which was tough because she was the thing on for over a year. I'd travel down to Bournemouth to see her every day. It was horrible watching my mother go downhill. I was there when she died, aged 81.

Being a grandfather makes me feel odd. It's embarrassing, but nice. Simon has two children, Harry, five, and George, one. It's boom, boom, boom when they come round - especially with Harry, who for some reason thinks I'm coming up with silly things to do with him. That puts me under enormous pressure to come up with even more silly things to do for next time!

Interview by Tony Padman
Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour is on Fridays at 7pm and Sounds of the Sixties, Saturday at 6pm on Radio 2. He is also part of Radio 1 Vintage - a three-day digital station launching on 20 September to mark Radio 1's 50th birthday.

Bargains for bookworms

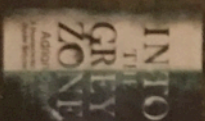
Book lovers are in for a treat this September, with new releases from Alan Booker winner Roddy Doyle and star chef Nigella Lawson. Visit the Guardian Bookshop online to save 25% on our pick of the month's best books.

You can also save £5 on our Book of the Month, The Last London - an epic conclusion to Ian Sinclair's life-long odyssey.

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From the home front

We love ...

A Poem for Every Day of the Year

A wonderful collection of 366 poems (one extra for a leap day) compiled by Alice Esau. A literary journey through the calendar year, it is packed with familiar favourites and new discoveries. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family. Published by Macmillan, £16.99



'Have enough courage to trust love one more time and always one more time'

Maya Angelou



» Culture » Books » What to Read

Joanna Lumley is an excellent walrus – A Poem for Every Day of the Year, National Theatre, review

★★★★★



By [Tristram Fane Saunders](#)

11 NOVEMBER 2017 • 3:33PM

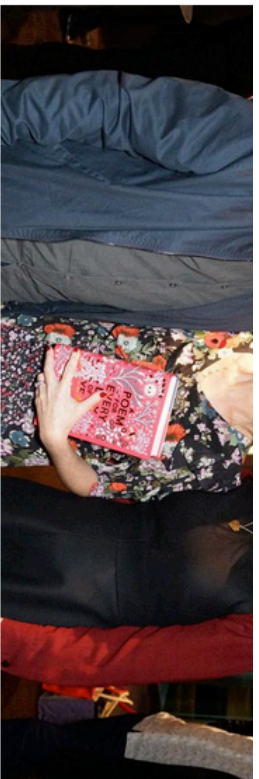
Not the most obvious bit of casting, but it works: [Joanna Lumley](#) makes an excellent walrus.

Reading Lewis Carroll's *The Walrus and the Carpenter* onstage with comic actor [Stephen Mangan](#), Lumley reduced an unusually glibly Olivier Theatre audience to helpless giggles at the launch of well-connected editor Allie Esiri's new anthology *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*.

Like its bestselling [Night of the Year](#) predecessor, it's mostly delicious old chestnuts with a few quirkier choices thrown in. There's not only "The boy stood on the burning deck", but also Spike Milligan's witty spoof of it.

As the book is aimed squarely at young readers, it was a shame last night's crowd seemed to contain fewer children than celebrities. Each arrival prompted a chorus of whispers. Oh look, there's [Damian Lewis](#)! Is that Esiri's old chum [Helena Bonham-Carter](#)? Oh dear, it's [David Cameron](#).





David and Samantha Cameron, with Allie Esiri CREDIT: ROLF MARRIOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

Reading poetry is remarkably easy; speak the words. Anyone can do it, but actors often struggle, tying themselves in knots to catch each nuance and overegging it as a result. Given this endemic professional weakness, it would be a little cruel to rank the guest readers on their efforts, but let's do it anyway.

Top marks for cracking RSC alumna Adjoa Andoh, unafraid to use the whole stage as she got her teeth into John Agard. Mangan was irresistibly droll as ever, while Peaky Blinders' Helen McCrory and Howards End star Samuel West kept things sharp and understated to great effect.

Lumley was hit-and-miss. She read Oodgeroo Noonuccal with an atrocious Aussie accent (a bit tacky, coming as it did after an earnest introduction about colonialism in Australia), but made up for it with an intelligent take on Frost's *The Road Less Travelled*, conveying the often-missed irony behind the poem's closing lines.

Despite his Shakespearean chops, Simon Russell Beale was mostly dead weight, reciting with a *Thought for the Day* lumpiness – until he gave us a blast of Prospero to close the show, and it suddenly became clear why they'd invited him.



Full cast (front row l to r): Helen McCrory, Allie Esiri, Joanna Lumley, Stephan Mangan (back row l to r) Simon Russell Beale, Samuel West, Adjoa Andoh, Chris Riddell CREDIT: ROLF MARRIOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

A suggestion for the National: why not make this a weekly event, sans A-listers and hotly promoted anthology? Just 45 minutes of rousing poetry, read by any stagehands, students or melodious-voiced ushers generous enough to put in the time.

It might even develop a regular following, like the weekly lunchtime concerts at the Royal Festival Hall down the road. It shouldn't be too expensive to run, either; Keats and Dickinson work for free, and they're available every day of the year.

A Poem for Every Day of the Year is published by Pan Macmillan at £16.99



EDITOR'S LETTER
Sue Peart

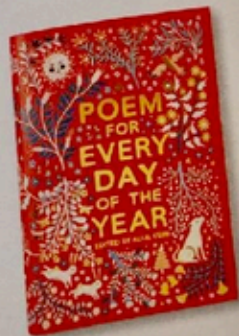
08.10.17 IN THIS ISSUE

If you could choose to have a superpower, what would it be? To eat without ever getting fat? To spend money without going into the red? High on my list would be the ability to stop time. Whenever I think life can't get any faster, the speed ratchets up another few notches. More commitments crammed into an already over-busy day – the alarm is set an hour earlier, the light goes out an hour later. Creaking under the pressure, I wish I could slow down the pace and enjoy some inner calm amid the daily madness. At last, thanks to author Pedram Shojaei, help is at hand. In our exclusive extract from his new book, Pedram introduces us to ancient life skills and techniques to help us build up our time prosperity, **page 42**. Ten years ago, YOU ran the first piece about a fledgling online business started by two enterprising young women, Holly Tucker and Sophie Cornish. That company was Not On The High Street...and the rest is retail history. A decade on, Holly has put her entrepreneurial skills behind a brilliant new online business – Holly & Co – drawing together artisan producers, from jewellers to chocolate-makers, under one cyber umbrella. Meet some of them on **page 54**. Talking of chocolate, the good news is it's Chocolate Week – check out I Quit Sugar guru Sarah Wilson's delicious guilt-free recipes for Raw Chocolate 'Cheesecake' and Mocha & Hazelnut Layer Cake on **page 76**. Happy Sunday!



HOW TO STRETCH TIME **PAGE 42**

EDITOR'S PICKS



READ
A Poem for Every Day of the Year edited by Allie Esiri.
£16.99, Pan Macmillan



WEAR
Bird-print satin pyjamas for a luxurious night's sleep.
£28, M&S Collection,
marksandspencer.com



BEAUTY TREAT
Espa Overnight Hydration Therapy, an intensive treatment mask that works all night, so you wake with perfectly hydrated skin.
£37, espaskincare.com



MEET THE MODERN MAKERS **PAGE 54**



Books: must reads and events

The Sunday Times

Bath *Rick Stein* talks about his new cookbook, *The Road to Mexico*, at The Ballroom, Bath Assembly Rooms, November 7, 7.30pm, £15. For more information, visit [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk)

Liverpool *Gordon Brown* talks about his memoir, *My Life, Our Times*, at St George's Hall, St George's Place, November 15, 7pm, £8/£7 (0151 709 9820)

London *Jenny Uglow* discusses her latest book, *Mr Lear: A Life of Art and Nonsense*, at Daunt Books, Marylebone High Street, W1, November 9, 7pm, £10 (020 7224 2295)

London *Joanna Lumley, Helen McCrory, Stephen Mangan, Simon Russell Beale* and *Samuel West* read from Allie Esiri's anthology, *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*, at the National Theatre, South Bank, SE1, November 10, 6pm, £7/£5. For details, visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk)



Hasta la vista

Don't cut short your favourite m

From crime novels to photography, the Mail's stars pick their books of the year - and every one's a cracker!

- A selection of stars from The Daily Mail shared their favourite book's this year
- One chose The Underground Railroad recommended by Barack Obama
- Another chose a book series aimed at children, The Book Of Dust

By [DAILY MAIL REPORTER](#)

PUBLISHED: 22:17, 30 November 2017 | [UPDATED: 22:17, 30 November 2017](#)

SARAH VINE

As my daughter is fond of reminding me, the last thing any godchild wants for Christmas is an edifying book.

Which is why all of mine will be getting A Poem For Every Day Of The Year, edited by Allie Esiri (Macmillan £16.99).

Sarah Vine says she will be buying A Poem For Every Day Of The Year, edited by Allie Esiri for her godchildren this Christmas

Not only is it a thing of beauty, it also offers an accessible, informative, bitesize approach to poetry. Your godchildren may not thank you, but their parents will.

For grown-ups, the best choice has to be Tim Shipman's Fall Out (HarperCollins £20). If you are at all curious as to how the Government almost managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory at this year's General Election, then this spirited account will give you the inside track.

BOOKS OF THE YEAR

Best poetry books of 2017

James Marriott has a few suggestions if your life is lacking a little poetry

James Marriott

December 2 2017, 12:01am,
The Times

Books



A Poem for Every Day of the Year

edited by Allie Esiri

A Poem for Every Day does exactly what this sort of book should do and rallies the old crowd-pleasers (Housman, Kipling and Hardy make multiple appearances), then makes occasional dashes off the beaten path to take in things such as Imtiaz Dharker's lovely poem *Crab-Apples* and even one poem by that gruff bastion of inaccessibility Geoffrey Hill (*Ode on the Loss of the Titanic*). If you feel as though your life is lacking a bit of poetry, this is an excellent place to start.

Macmillan, 576pp; £16.99

POETRY

RHYME OR REASON

If poetry is food for the soul, Allie Esiri will keep you well fed with her new book, *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*. Revisit old favourites and discover some of our best modern poets. Don't miss the live reading at the National Theatre, with actors including Joanna Lumley. 10 Nov. nationaltheatre.org.uk



Stockings!



Under the tree for kids



MR PENGUIN AND THE LOST TREASURE
by Alex T Smith / Rhodder Children's Books, £9.99
Accompany Mr Penguin on his quest to find hidden treasure in the first of a new series by Claude-creator Alex T Smith.



FINN FAMILY MOOMINTROLL
by Tove Jansson / Sort of Books, £10.99
These new hardback editions have the original designs. There are more to come, so start collecting now.



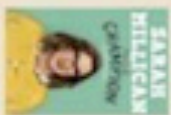
FATHER CHRISTMAS AND ME by Matt Haig
(Coronico Books, £12.99)
A magical festive series. This time it's Amelia, the adopted daughter of Father Christmas, who, with the elves, must save the day.



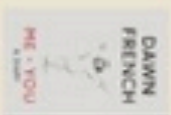
A POEM FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
Edited by Alice Esiri
(Macmillan, £8.99)
A magnificent collection of verses, perfect for reading aloud. Funny, thoughtful and inspiring, and your whole family will love them.



THINKING OUT LOUD: LOVE, GRIEF AND BEING MUM AND DAD by Rio Ferdinand / Rhodder & Scoughron, £20
Following on from a heartfelt documentary earlier this year, this is Rio's courageous story of life, loss, grief and hope.



HOW TO BE A MILKAV CHAMPION: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY
by Sarah Milkav
(Tropica, £20)
Meander your way through life with Sarah's tips and advice. Laughter guaranteed.



ME, YOU, A FRENCH DIARY by Dawn French / Mitchell Joseph, £20
Start a journal alongside Dawn's witty outlook on life. This will have you laughing about your year.

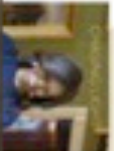
Coffee table delights



TEACH YOURSELF TO FLY
SERIES OF BOOKS by various authors / Rhodder & Scoughron, £7.99
You can learn to fly a plane, ride a bike or find happiness in these classic how-to guides, originally published in 1938.



100 YEARS OF FASHION ILLUSTRATION
by Cally Blackman
(Lourence King Publishing, £12.99)
A beautiful book full of gorgeous illustrations that will look fabulous on any coffee table.



CHASING LIGHT THROUGH THE LENS OF A WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER



NEW YORK SKETCHBOOK
by Jason Brooks
(Lourence King)

Health & wellbeing

THE QUINTESSENTIAL GROOMING GUIDE FOR THE MODERN GENTLEMAN
by Capt Peabody Fawcett RN
(Jocqui Small, £20)

For all the bearded males in your life, this is the perfect gift. The history of beards, and barbering, along with a host of wonderful photos.



THE SELF-CARE PROJECT: HOW TO LET GO OF FRAZZLE AND MAKE TIME FOR YOU
by Jamie Hardy (Dorset Springs)





PHOTOGRAPH: CAROL WILES

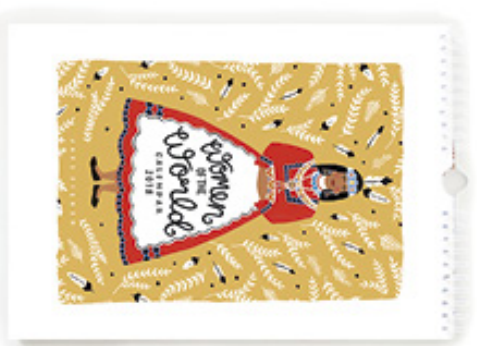
➔ Pick up one of Laura Spring Studio's Conceal tote bags in a graphic new colourway for the season ahead. They make for thoughtful stocking fillers, although we most definitely want one for ourselves. www.lauraspring.co.uk



➔ We hadn't even realised it until we saw them, but Howkapow's Sushi Socks are most definitely the thing missing from our sock drawer. Tuck them inside a pair of chunky winter boots for seriously happy feet. www.howkapow.com



TOP READ
Poem a day
Illustrators Press have lent their magical style to the cover artwork of this beautiful collection of daily poems, *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*, edited by Alle Eirin. Pick up a copy to feel inspired throughout 2018, both when you look at the cover and when you delve deeper inside. www.illustratorspress.com



➔ One of Mollie Makes' fave illustrators, Jade Fisher, has just launched her *Women of the World* calendar for 2018. The 13 stunningly illustrated original gouache designs are just the thing to fancy up your craft room wall for the year ahead. www.jadefisher.com



➔ Miss Patina's preppy Autumn/Winter collection is inspired by a music academy. This Stradivarius dress comes in peach and blue, and makes a harmonious addition to your new-season wardrobe. www.misspatina.com

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BOOK REVIEWS - POETRY (PAGE 2)

Children love to read poetry, and to have it read aloud to them. It is a wonderful way to extend their language skills and reading poetry can encourage them to write their own. I have also included some books of songs and nursery rhymes.

[amazon.co.uk](#)

A POEM FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR EDITED BY ALLIE ESIRI



A Poem for
Every Day of...

£11.89



This eclectic collection of 366 poems bring us one to share on every day of the year; how about making a daily poem part of your family bedtime routine?. These poems are funny, thoughtful, inspiring, humbling, informative, quiet, loud, small, epic, peaceful, energetic, upbeat, motivating, and empowering! My only disappointment is that, after seeing the beautiful cover, I expected a more up-market presentation inside the book. However, despite that quibble, this is an excellent anthology which has been carefully thought out to provide plenty of topical material for each month, across a wide range of poets and periods, encompassing old favourites and new discoveries. It will prove a valuable resource for teachers, and a comprehensive anthology for home libraries.



Shop now

OUTGOING

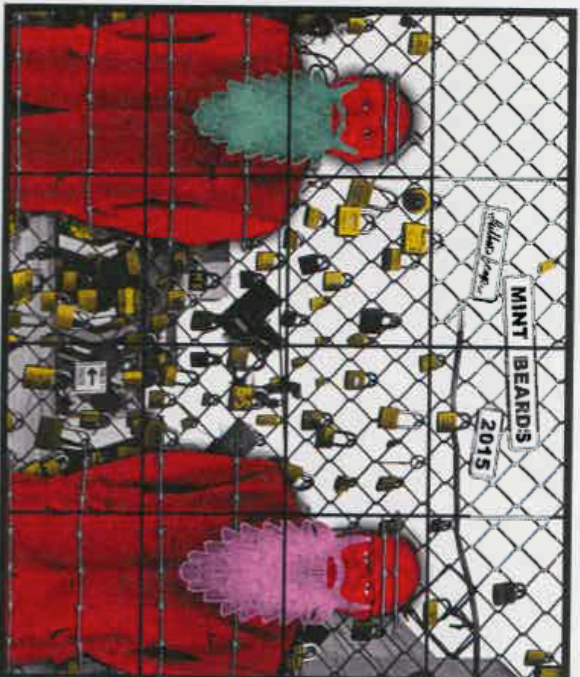
FIVE WAYS TO GET YOUR CULTURE FIX THIS WEEK

CELEBRATE GILBERT AND GEORGE



London **Gilbert & George, The Beard Pictures And Their Pockoscopy**, White Cube, 144-152 Bernoldsey Sq, SE1; 22 November 2017-29 January 2018; free; whitecube.com

Gilbert and George are like the kindly, and somewhat eccentric, uncles of modern British art – deadly serious about their work, but with a mischievous glint in their eye. With a career dating back 50 years this exhibition celebrates some of their most recent works. *The Beard Pictures* characteristically features both artists with heavily embellished beards and deals with disguise and deception and *Their Pockoscopy* features nearly 4,000 of their mottoes and pronouncements on the human condition. Important messages from important artists.



Dance to honour the dead

London **Wahaca's Day Of The Dead: The Vaults, Leake St, SE1; 2-4 November; £25; wahaca.co.uk/dotd**

Día de Muertos is a traditional Mexican holiday to honour friends and family who have passed. With a focus on ritual and prayer, as well as dance and theatre, Wahaca's festival promises an authentic touch rather than cultural appropriation. Guests can pay respects to loved ones in a recreation of the Cemetery Paríen General in Oaxaca, Mexico, plus there will be exquisite Mexican food and dancing till the small hours.



Find comedy in a dead cat

Bristol **Jayde Adams, Jaydeet, Colston Hall, Colston St, BS1; 19 November; £14; colstonhall.org/shows/jayde-adams**

Local girl and 2016 Best Newcomer at Edinburgh Fringe Jayde Adams returns home with her latest comedy show – “a classic narrative of self-realisation against the odds” but with rapping, dance and a dead cat. This is the story of a misfit, struggling with loneliness and the need to fit in, desperately clinging to her smartphone for signs of acceptance. But ultimately it is a paean to anyone who's felt alone and you'll be cheering Jayde's triumphant, charismatic and very funny journey to self discovery.



Be inspired by poetry every day

London **A Poem For Every Day Of The Year, National Theatre, Olivier Theatre, Upper Ground, South Bank, SE1; 10 November; £7; nationaltheatre.org.uk**

Following last year's *A Poem For Every Night Of The Year* Alle Esiri, creator of the iF Poems anthology app, has curated 366 works from authors as diverse as TS Eliot, Keats, Carol Ann Duffy and Kate Tempest that will uplift, inform and inspire. Reading from the book will be actors including Joanna Lumley and Helen McCrory who will take us through the year-long journey of human experience.



Meet the real art rock diva

Nationwide **Grace Jones: Bloodlight And Bamf**, in cinemas 27 October

This decade-in-the-making documentary offers an insight into what makes the powerhouse vocalist tick. Interspersing incredible live performances with footage of a journey back to her familial home in Jamaica, director Sophie Fennies presents Jones as a daughter, mother and grandmother, not just the forthright, impossibly-glamorous, many-hatted provocateur she's usually known as. The result is a strangely touching portrayal of a woman who's channelled early disadvantages into a career that will never be forgotten.



CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING



Allie Esiri received her Independent Bookshop Week (IBW) Book Award at Lutyens & Rubinstein bookshop in west London. Her poetry book *A Poem for Every Night of the Year* (Macmillan Children's Books) benefited from featuring in over 400 independent bookshops, including on posters and bookmarks. "I am passionate about sharing poetry with the widest possible audience and am so grateful to all independent bookshops who have championed this anthology," she said.

TRADE

The Bookseller, June 2017



Allie Esiri (centre) held an event called 'Blood and Words: the Poetry of War' at the FTWeekend festival at Kenwood House on Saturday 2nd September. Esiri was joined on the panel by Sanjeev Bhaskar OBE and Olivier-award winning actor Tamsin Greig (credit: Financial Times Live).

Reading a poem a day will make you see the world differently

3
MIN

Allie Esiri is a firm believer in the power of poetry to give meaning to both the mundane and the celebratory. If you haven't picked up a volume of poetry since school, this is the perfect place to start



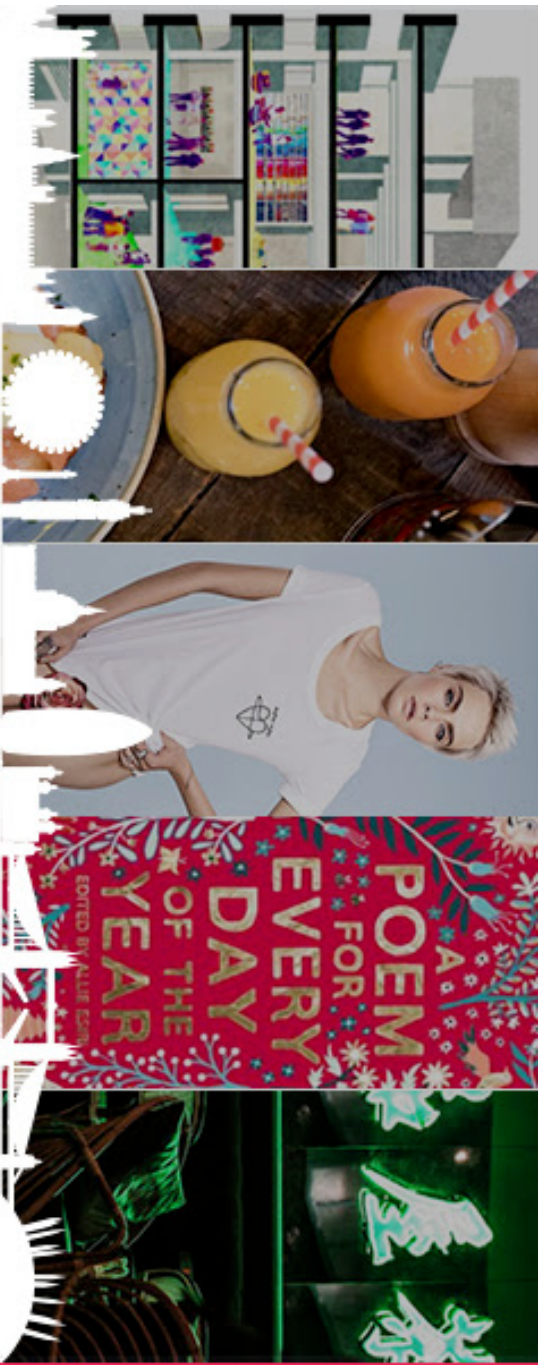
By Allie Esiri on 06.09.17

Great poems make us more human. They introduce us to new ways of seeing the world. Poetry transports us and forces us to imagine what it might be like to be someone or somewhere completely different. Poetry can be there in time of need – it can help us, save us, hit us in the stomach and make us feel we are not alone. In distraught times, we can find truth, comfort and hope in poetry; in happy times, we turn to poetry to help us express our joy.

“

**Poetry transports us and forces us to imagine what it might be like to be someone
or somewhere completely different**

My new anthology, *A Poem For Every Day Of The Year*, contains poems for each and every day of the year. Poetry is there for the everyday, for the little things in life and for the big moments, too – many of us turn to poetry for births, weddings and funerals, perhaps because poetry, as Wordsworth put it, is “felt along the heart”. The great poets manage to express what most of us struggle to be able to put in words. Or, as Coleridge wrote, prose might be the best words, but poetry is “the best words in the best order”.



HALPERN HOTLIST OCTOBER 2017

Book: A Poem for Every Day of the Year



Allie Esiri is the writer behind *iF Poems*, the educational poetry app and also *A Poem for Every Night of the Year*. Now she brings us *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*...see what Esiri that cover a range of emotions, sentiments, topics and thoughts. The poems are perfect for all the family and not only include old firm favourites but also authors you may never have heard of. It's such an eclectic and beautiful collection of writing, the book will become a firm favourite and makes the perfect gift. Trust us, we've bought a few copies for friends already. Authors include T.S Eliot, Shakespeare, John Betjeman, Ted Hughes and Carol Ann Duffy.



DISCOVER

GOING OUT

13 things you should do this November

This month it's all about poetry readings, Pussy Riots and putting a swing in your step. We bring you the very best things to do in November.

by BEATRIZ CHOI AND LUCIANA BELLINI

02 NOV 2017



+

A Poem for Every Night of the Year at the National Theatre

Poetry powerhouse Allie Esiri is bringing her hit book, *A Poem for Every Day of the Year*, to life with a special event at the National Theatre on 10 November. Poetry lovers including Joanna Lumley, Helen McCrory and Simon Russell Beale will be reading aloud some of the book's most magical and humorous poems, accompanied by live illustrations from political cartoonist Chris Riddell.

Visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

WIN A COPY OF A POEM FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR



'Poetry powerhouse' and winner of 2017's Independent Bookshop Week award, Allie Esiri strikes again with a collection of handpicked poems for every day of the year. A companion volume to the bestselling *A Poem for Every Night of the Year*, this new anthology is a collection of 366 poems each with a connection to the corresponding date.

A Poem For Every Day of the Year is a literary journey through the calendar year celebrating the seasons, diverse cultures and notable historical dates. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, the new book is full with familiar favourites and exciting new discoveries. T.S. Eliot, John Betjeman, Lewis Carroll and William Shakespeare sit alongside Carol Ann Duffy, Kate Tempest and many more.

This November, Esiri will once again host a **Platform event** at the National Theatre, following the sell-out success of the 2016 event, which featured special guests Samuel West and Hattie Morahan for an audience of over 1000 people.

Described by Tatler as a 'poetry powerhouse', Allie Esiri, a former stage, film and TV actress, is an accomplished curator and host of live poetry events and has worked with special guest readers such as Damian Lewis, Helen McCrory and Sophie Turner.

Credited with bringing poetry in to the digital age, her bestselling apps *IF Poems* and *The Love Book* feature readings with actors including Helena Bonham Carter, Tom Hiddleston, Bill Nighy and Emma Watson and have been selected by Apple as Best Education App and Best New App. Esiri read *Modern and Medieval* languages at Cambridge University and now lives in London with her husband and three children.

Yours.co.uk

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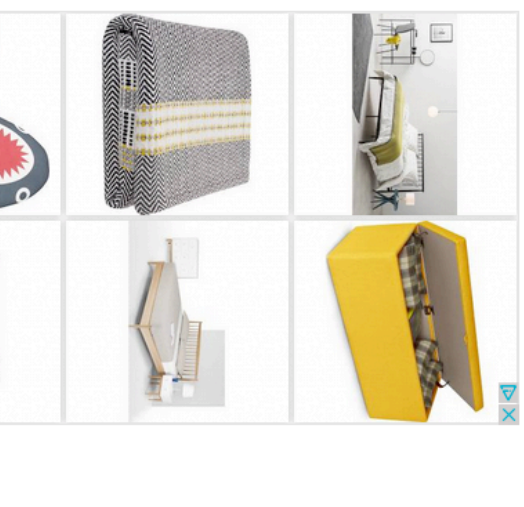
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A Poem for Every Day of the Year by Allie Esiri

For those who do not read much poetry, for those who do not know where to start, this is a fun and easy commitment to take on. Reading a poem a day does not take long, mere minutes, and with over three-hundred poems in here there's bound to be a poem that speaks to each reader directly.


Allie Esiri has put together a really strong collection. The poems match the time of the year with the themes reflecting the seasons and its associated mood. This is especially so during the December part of the book with many festive pieces being used. She has also used many extracts from larger works to give a taste of longer more developed poetry throughout, which I think is very important because many of the major poetical works in the English language are thousands and thousands of lines long. Short poems are more accessible, but longer ones often carry much more with them.


Particular favourites of mine included *Love's Philosophy* by Percy Shelley, *The Buddha* by Tony Mitton and the very famous *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost. There's also an excellent extract from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which in itself is a play of pure poetry. As such the poems are rich in diversity and carry with them varying degrees of complexity. Although published by Macmillan Children's Books, I think this collection is more suited to an adult reader. There are, certainly, poems in here that a young reader may enjoy, but I think an adult would get more out of poems that deal with larger issues such as love, death and life.

Before each poem is a short introduction to briefly situate the poem into its context. These are helpful and informative, and for the inexperienced reader these would act as a guide through many different styles of poetry from a huge array of writers. The cover art is, simply put, stunning. I love the design. The book acts as a sister book to the previously published *A Poem for Every Night of the Year* with brighter colours used to reflect the day time this time. The layout is also very simple making the book easy to dive in and out of.

All in all, it's a well thought out collection. I think this book would make an ideal gift for someone at Christmas or perhaps someone recently beginning an English literature qualification or a writing based project.

If you're interested in reading more poetry then it's always worth checking out [William and Dorothy Wordsworth: A Miscellany](#) by Gavin Herbertson.

 You can read more book reviews or buy *A Poem for Every Day of the Year* by Allie Esiri at [Amazon.co.uk](#).

 You can read more book reviews or buy *A Poem for Every Day of the Year* by Allie Esiri at [Amazon.com](#).

Poetic inspiration



'Poetry powerhouse' Allie Esiri does some daydreaming...

If I were Prime Minister for a day, I would rule that everyone should learn a poem by heart to recite out loud.

I'd stand at the pulpit outside number 10 and explain the joy of reading poetry out loud and the gift of having a store of poems inside your head. I'd mention that Wordsworth's father encouraged the young William to read and learn the

classics so he would have a 'golden store of books'. Since earliest times, poetry was celebrated as a great gift of memory: the ancient Greeks even invoked the goddess Mnemosyne, meaning 'memory', at the start of their poems.

It could be a very short poem. There is a poem that hits me in the heart and it is only two words long – it's by the Scottish writer George MacDonald and it's called *The Shortest and Sweetest of Songs*. It goes like this:

Come
Home.

Like a song, poetry cries out for a voice to give it life off the page. A poem isn't a song, but nor is it prose. It sits somewhere between music and everyday language. I'd say a poem is words arranged musically.

T S Eliot famously said that, 'poetry can communicate before it is understood'. A poem can be enjoyed without knowing or worrying about what all the words mean. Decades after first reading William Blake's *The Tyger*, I know that the terrifying creature is 'burning bright / In the forests of the night'; I still hear that pulsing rhythm as the sound of huge paws echoing through the darkness. Before I knew what rhythm and rhyme were, I felt them. Then, as now, poetry communicated before it was understood.

I have seen a six-year-old reciting Spike Milligan's Nonsense poem *On the Ning Nang Nong* and then his eighty-year-old grandfather remembering aloud a passage from *Othello* he had learned long ago at school. I could have sworn that each grew a few inches taller before my eyes, out of pride and delight as they drew on their golden store of words.

I don't really want to be prime minister for a day. I do know that poetry won't stop a war nor fix all the world's problems. However it can play its part. Salman Rushdie puts this well, 'A poet's work is to name the unnameable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world.' This National Poetry Day, learn a poem by heart, recite it out loud and know that great poets have put the best words in the best order to enlighten you and illuminate the world a little, and may the harmony of the words and sounds keep you company in times of need.

Allie's new collection *A Poem for Every Day of the Year* is out now, and is [one of the books we are recommending](#) on National Poetry Day.

TWEETREACH SNAPSHOT FOR

#askAllie

ESTIMATED REACH

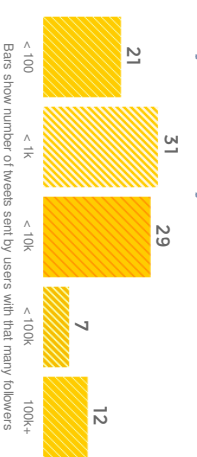
EXPOSURE

363,437

ACCOUNTS REACHED

2,729,437

IMPRESSIONS



ACTIVITY

100

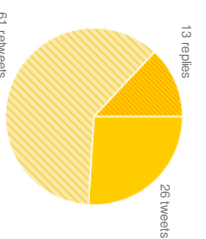
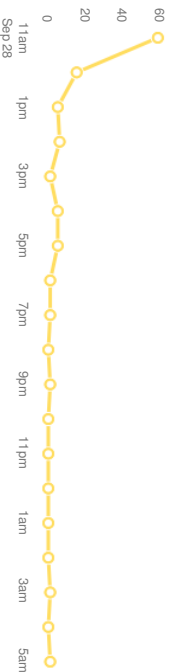
TWEETS

71

CONTRIBUTORS

19

HOURS



TOP CONTRIBUTORS

MOST RETWEETED TWEETS

2.4M

IMPRESSIONS

@Waterstones

14

Waterstones @Waterstones
The wonderful @AllieEsiri is here to dispense the perfect poem for you on #NationalPoetryDay Whatever you're after... twitter.com/web/status/9...

55

RETWEETS

@Waterstones

12

Waterstones @Waterstones
We've run out of time to #askAllie but here she is with a perfect poem to finish. @AllieEsiri's new anthology...
twitter.com/web/status/9...

48

MENTIONS

@Waterstones

6

Waterstones @Waterstones
To Autumn by Keats Poems don't come any more autumny #askAllie #NationalPoetryDay
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Happy #PoetryDay! RT&F + tag your fave poet/poem to #win signed copy of the gorgeous #APoemForEveryDayOfTheYear from @AllieEsiri (ends 2/10)



Pan Macmillan and Macmillan Children's

111

247

97

