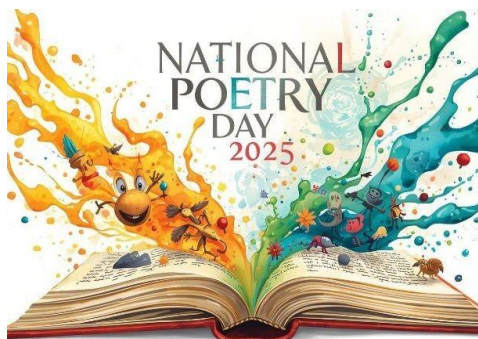




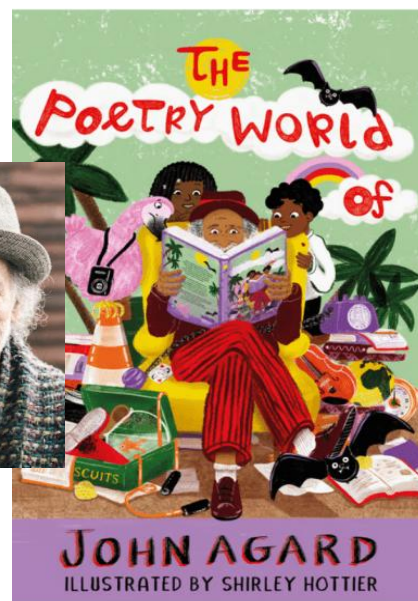
Malvern's Reading for Pleasure Newsletter – October 2025



National Poetry Day: This annual celebration of the joy of poetry takes place on the first Thursday in October. This year's theme is **Play** and the National Poetry Day website features a vast range of poems and resources. While perusing the NPD website, I discovered a new book: **The Poetry World of John Agard**. John Agard was born and grew up in British Guiana (now Guyana). He moved to Britain in 1977 and in 2012 was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. From his new book.....

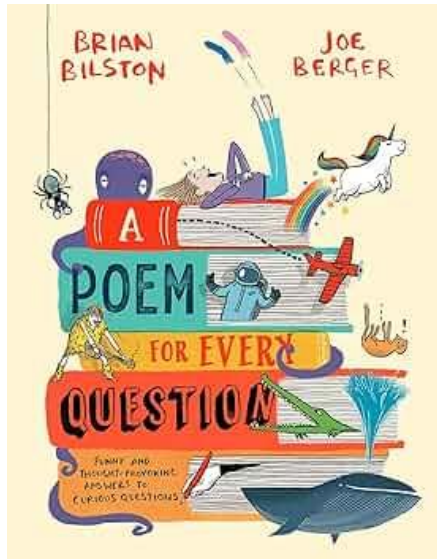
Skipping Rope Spell by John Agard

Turn rope turn	Don't trip my feet
	Turn rope turn
	For my skipping feet
Turn rope turn	Turn round and round
	Turn in the air
	Turn on the ground
One for your high	One for your low
	Turn rope turn
	Not too fast, not too slow
Turn rope turn	Turn to the north
	Turn to the south
	But please rope, please,
	Don't make me OUT!



Brian Patten: Poet and author Brian Patten died a few days ago. He was born in Bootle in 1946. Together with Roger McGough and Adrian Henri, he published **The Mersey Sound** in 1967. He wrote poems and stories for children and adults. His book **The Story Giant** is a personal favourite. Here's the start of one of his poems:

Gust Becos I Cud Not Spel..... Gust becos I cud
not spel / It did not mean I was daft / When the boys
in school red my riting / Some of them laffed.....



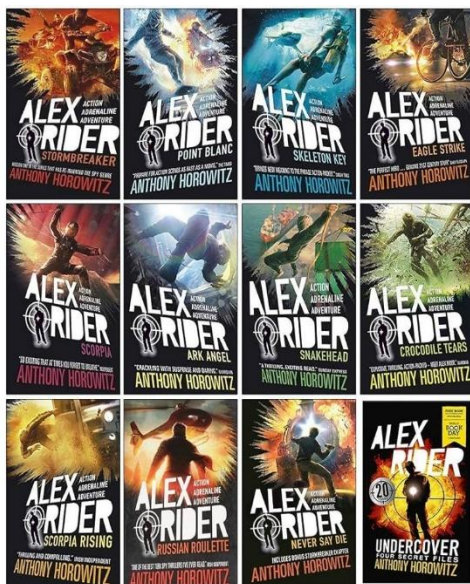
A Poem for Every Question: Published in September, this funny and thought-provoking book provides answers to curious questions ... in poetry form ! The book is a hilarious, non-fiction adventure in 100 poems – with subjects ranging from science and animals to unicorns, pyramids, technology and more. Questions include:

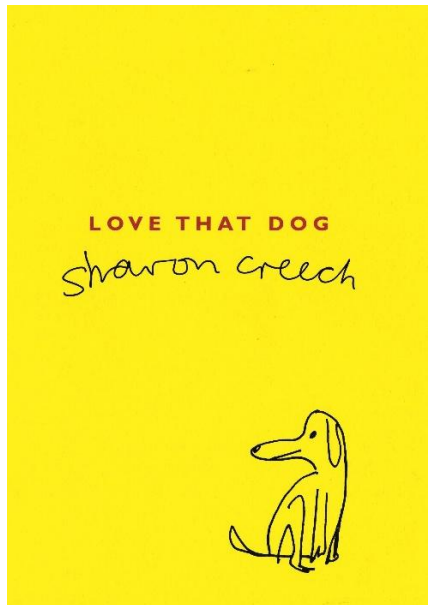
How many stars in the Universe exploded today ? Who invented football ? Who is the champion weightlifter of the animal world ? How did the ancient Egyptians make a mummy ?

Each fascinating question about the world around us is answered with one of Brian Bilston's witty poems. Expect the hilarious, thought-provoking, poignant – and downright silly ! Brian's poems are accompanied by an extra non-fiction explainer, filled with facts and written with just as much humour and heart as the poems. Each page is brought to life with bright, humorous and characterful artwork by illustrator, animator and cartoonist Joe Berger.



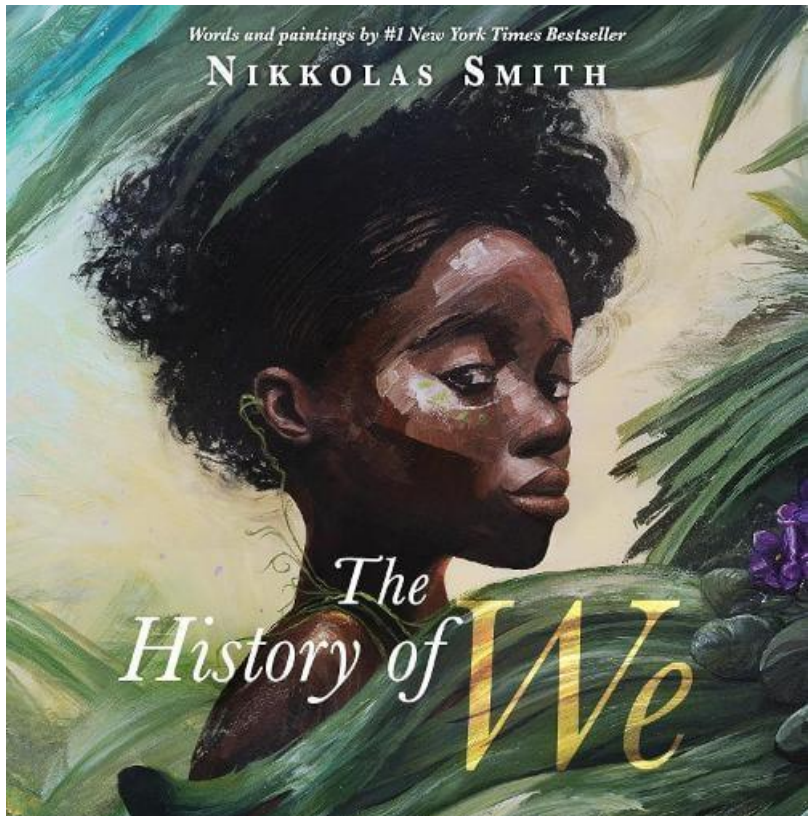
Anthony Horowitz: Our author of the month for October is Anthony Horowitz. Born in 1955, Horowitz is a screenwriter and novelist. His series of books for children include **Alex Rider**, **The Power of Five** and **The Diamond Brothers**. Our school library is currently showcasing various Anthony Horowitz titles.





Love That Dog: Written by American author Sharon Creech, this verse novel was published way back in 2001. It completely passed me by until I discovered it very recently. The Waterstone's website says: ***Slowly Jack learns the pleasures of writing poetry as Miss Stretchberry encourages him to tell his own story through verse. What emerges is a moving and memorable story about a boy and his dog and his growing passion for poetry.***

The History of We: Told in a sequence of breathtaking paintings, Nikkolas Smith's pictorial account of the dawn of humanity centres the story firmly in Africa and asks young readers to try and understand how it must have felt to try everything that we take for granted for the first time. Waterstone's says: *What did "the beginning" look like? Let us travel back to the start, so far back that*



all of our roots begin to tell the same story. The history of WE. Fossil records show that the first humans were born in Africa. Meaning every person on Earth can trace their heritage back to that continent. This is a wonderful book – a must for the artwork alone.



Contributions Welcome: I am always keen to include recommendations and reviews from children and adults. If you're willing to share, please let me know what you've been reading. Thank you.....and Happy Reading!

'Books crowbar the world open for you.' (From 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell)

Paul Kynaston : Reading Advocate : Malvern Primary School : Liverpool : October 2025

I'm reading **Shadow Thieves** by Peter Burns.

Malvern Community Book Club's current book is **What Will Survive of Us is Love** by H. Jacobson.