

The final answer to a simple number problem – involving addition and subtraction – is hidden beneath a flap on the last page and young readers can't wait to demonstrate their magical prowess time and time again.

Jenny Blanch

## I'm Number One

Written by Michael Rosen  
Illustrated by Bob Graham  
Walker Books £11.99  
ISBN: 978-1406314656

The pairing of the incomparable Michael

Rosen and Bob Graham was bound to produce a winner and this kind, child-friendly story about how to deal with a bully does not disappoint. When



mother and child leave the house the toys are left in charge, or rather wind-up-toys-soldier A-One is in charge. At least that's what he thinks. The other toys all do as he asks yet he calls them names and makes fun of them. However, what started out as hurtful name-calling is turned around into fun wordplay which has everyone smiling. The beguilingly simple illustrations are full of character, gentle yet detailed and they fit perfectly with the text. This is a book you can enjoy going back to for both the pictures and the text – and maybe it will encourage word play of your own?

Gill MacDonald

## Winnie's Amazing Pumpkin

Written by Valerie Thomas Illustrated by Korky Paul  
Oxford University Press £10.99  
ISBN: 978-0192729088

Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul have done it again! A wonderful new book about Winnie the Witch and her cat Wilbur, who have decided to grow



their own vegetables instead of struggling to bring a sack home from market on the back of the broomstick. Winnie works very hard in her garden but is disappointed when the caterpillars, snails and

rabbits eat her crops. So she resorts to magic which, as ever, results in far more than she had bargained for. Korky Paul's iconic illustrations, full of humour and detail add so much to the text as Winnie's black house and magical garden are brought to life. She has to work swiftly when her home becomes totally overgrown and then has the dilemma of what to do with the remaining, giant pumpkin. Of course, Winnie comes up with a wonderful solution that solves more than one problem. She never fails to delight and this story will be enjoyed time and time again.

Louise Stothard

# Reviews Poetry

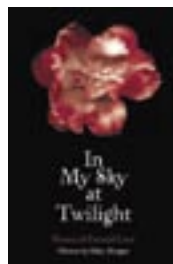
Reviewed by Enid Stephenson

Two Poetry Books and a Doorstep of a Reference Book



*Everybody was a baby once and other poems* by Allan Ahlberg illustrated by Bruce Ingman. These two have collaborated before and to great success, Bruce Ingman's free flowing illustrations seem to fit perfectly with Allan Ahlberg's imagination. This is a collection of original poems, many with a somewhat sideways view of life. All perfect to read aloud and destined to become firm favourites.

*In My Sky at Twilight: Poems of Eternal Love* chosen by Gaby Morgan. The jacket is designed to catch the eye of the many fans of Stephanie Meyer and the collection of poems is wide ranging in mood and date from Catullus to Carol Ann Duffy. I would have liked a couple of pages with the briefest of biographies about the poets but I enjoyed the way the poems, from across the centuries, intermingle.



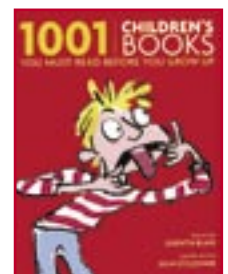
*1001 Children's Books you must read before you grow up*, general editor Julia Eccleshare. This is the latest in the series of doorstep books – the first five on *Painting, Historic Sites, Movies, Albums, Books* – all titled 1001 you must read/see/hear before you die (I do balk at the word must). With this look at children's books at least death doesn't hover in the title. Poets are given short shift, at first I thought they were excluded from the selection but found on looking through the 960 pages that a few are included. However no Roger McGough or Adrian Mitchell, to name but two of the best poets for children.

Of course any selection of books is bound to omit personal favourites but this does seem perverse. I would have made room by listing only one entry for any series, a practice not followed here.

It is arranged in ages – 0-3, 3+, 5+, 8+ and 12+ – the most problematic for me is the 8+: the maturity of an eight year old being so very different to that of an eleven year old. Titles in this particular section ranging from Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* to the very mature book *Jacob have I loved* by Katherine Paterson.

The book includes contributors from around the world and seeks to give an international view, though the main emphasis is very much on English and American authors. It is well illustrated, attractively laid out and each section is in date order of first publication. This arrangement, whilst making interesting juxtapositions does, if you are looking for a particular book, rely heavily on a decent index. And in this it falls short. For example: Burnett, Frances Hodgson has apparently written something called *Sara Crewe* whereas Hodgson Burnett, Frances has written *A Little Princess*; Searle, Ronald is mysteriously credited with *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*; bundling both the early twentieth century illustrator and the author Nicholson, William in the same listing makes for confusion and *Storm* is listed only under the illustrator not the author (Kevin Crossley Holland) and *Storm* suffers again in the main body of the book in having no mention that it won the Carnegie Medal.

There is, despite my cavils, much to enjoy. But I wish someone somewhere could have taken a bit more care.



*Everybody was a baby once and other poems* Walker Books £9.99 ISBN: 978-1406321562

*In My Sky at Twilight: Poems of Eternal Love* Macmillan ISBN: 978-0230745865

*1001 Children's Books you must read before you grow up* Cassell Illustrated £20.00 ISBN: 978-1844036714