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Fire Burn, Cauldron Bubble

Magical Poems

CHOSEN BY
PAUL COOKSON

BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY



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De Magic Poem

I seek de magic poem
De one dat all poets seek
I'm told dat it can ease our sorrows
An good harvest reap
I seek de magic poem
In every language it can speak
It's celebrating our tomorrows
An it never sleeps

I seek de magic poem
I know it's safe
I know it's good
I'm told dat it's full of light
I need it for me neighbourhood

I seek de magic poem
I seek it high
I seek it low
I'm told dat it is out of sight
Another poem told me so

I seek de magic poem
Over de seas
Over de land
I'm at de ever ready
Try and understand

I seek de magic poem
It's in de mind
It's in de skies
I don't want to get heavy but
Dis poem never lies

I seek de magic poem
De one de Pop Stars cannot sing
I'm told it will bring us music
A peace place create
I seek de magic poem
Dat poem keeps me wondering
I'm told it's true, pure an organic
Dis hide an seek is great

Benjamin Zephaniah



Whizzo McWizzard's Amazing Creations

Self-cleaning socks for long-distance runners
Self-cooling sandals for steaming-hot summers
Bed socks for dogs and pillows for cats
Spring-loaded exocet-strength cricket bats
Self-inflating life-saving knickers
Pulpits with engines for overworked vicars
All these and more – magic sensations
Whizzo McWizzard's amazing creations

Bananas and oranges – fitted with zips
Healthy and calorie-free fish and chips
Centrally heated warm toilet seats
Non-flavour-fading-non-shrinking-sweet-sweets
A homework computer that fits in the pocket
Football boots with the power of a rocket
Spells and inventions – magic sensations
Whizzo McWizzard's amazing creations

Sprockets and sockets and test tubes that boil
Wires and fires, foil and oil
Springs that go zing and things that uncoil
Hubble and bubble and trial and toil



Jottings and workings with odd calculations
Diagrams labelled with weird notations
Models that move with the strangest rotations
Uttering mutterings, strange incantations

A potion to send your teachers to sleep
A lotion that makes granddad's hair like a sheep
A tablet to take to turn sister blue
A pill to prescribe for a sick cockatoo
A spell you can tell to shut up your brother
A chant to incant to silence your mother
A word that's absurd that freezes up time
A magical pencil to make each poem rhyme
Line after line after line after line
Line after line after line after line
Line after line after line after line
Line after line of his magic sensations
Whizzo McWizzard's amazing creations

PAUL COOKSON

Dreamland

When midnight mists are creeping,
And all the land is sleeping,
Around me tread the mighty dead,
And slowly pass away.
Lo, warriors, saints, and sages,
From out the vanished ages,
With solemn pace and reverend face
Appear and pass away.
The blaze of noonday splendour,
The twilight soft and tender,
May charm the eye: yet they shall die,
Shall die and pass away.
But here, in Dreamland's centre,
No spoiler's hand may enter,
These visions fair, this radiance rare,
Shall never pass away.
I see the shadows falling,
The forms of old recalling;
Around me tread the mighty dead,
And slowly pass away.

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898)



Do You Know?

Do you know
That you can go
In the early morning light
When the dew is on the grass
And find the little cobweb tents
The fairies sleep in all the night?
But, alas, you'll find no traces
Of their little fairy faces!

Edith Colby Banfield (1870-1903)

Over hill, over dale

from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire,
I do wander every where,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the fairy queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green;
The cowslips tall her pensioners be;
In their gold coats spots you see;
Those be rubies, fairy favours;
In those freckles live their savours;
I must go seek some dew-drops here,
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.

William Shakespeare (1564–1616)

I Feel Like I Know Them

I feel like I know them,
those three teenage wizards.

You know who I mean.

It's hard to believe,
that they are not real people.
Real friends.
My friends.

Especially when I dream of them
like I did last night.

In my dream we were at their school together.
It was so real.
So right.

I belonged there completely.

We explored
the shadowy places
that aren't in the books:
endless corridors
dusty stores
libraries and
forgotten classrooms
behind massive creaking doors.



The one who is a bit of a teacher's pet said,
in her kind but uppity way...

'When you read a book
or watch a film
you're only seeing the top of the story,
like an island above the surface of the sea.
To really know a story,
To swim below the surface,
You have to live them in your dreams...
like we are tonight.'

Then we all sat on her four-poster bed,
and talked until dawn
as a storm raged outside.

Please let me be back there
when I close my eyes.

Ed Boxall





I Once Asked a Wizard

I once asked a wizard to make me a sandwich.
Your wish will be granted, he said.
I got what I asked for. He made me a sandwich...
I'm stuck between two bits of bread!

Graham Denton