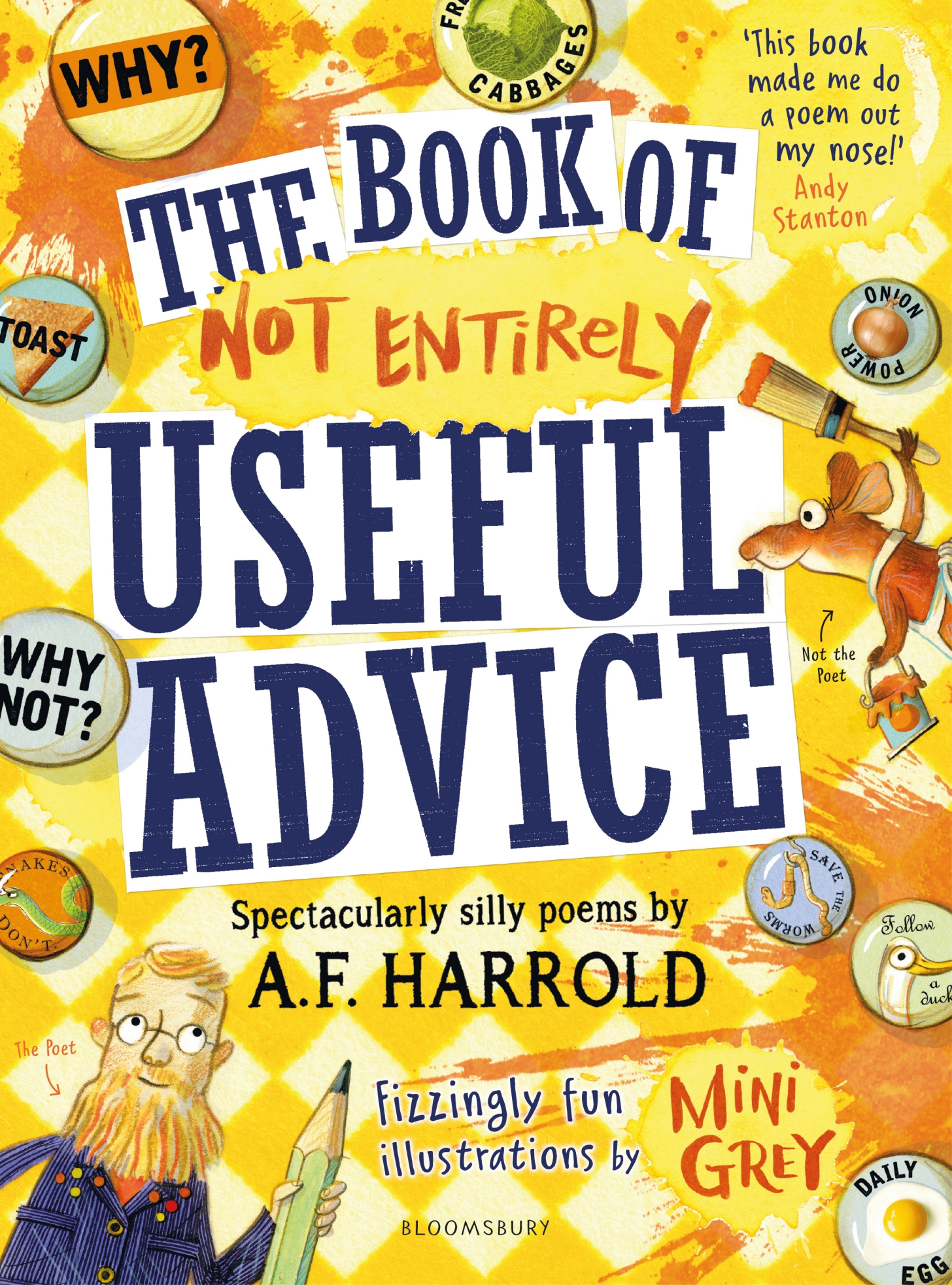

WHY?
CABBAGES
'This book made me do a poem out my nose!'
Andy Stanton
THE BOOK OF
NOT ENTIRELY
USEFUL
ADVICE
TOAST
ONION POWER
WHY NOT?
Not the Poet
SAVE THE WORMS
Follow a duck
Spectacularly silly poems by
A.F. HARROLD
The Poet
Fizzingly fun illustrations by
MINI GREY
DAILY EGG
BLOOMSBURY



Advice comes in many shapes. Poems come in many shapes. And so, it follows, poems of advice come in many shapes too.

Sometimes they look you in the eye and say, 'Do this! Don't do that!'

Sometimes they sidle up beside you and whisper, 'Have you ever thought about ... ?'

And sometimes they don't seem to make any sense at all, and just seem to be going on about jelly for some reason.

Quack, quack, quack.

Books by A.F. Harrold

The Afterwards
Illustrated by Emily Gravett

The Imaginary
Illustrated by Emily Gravett

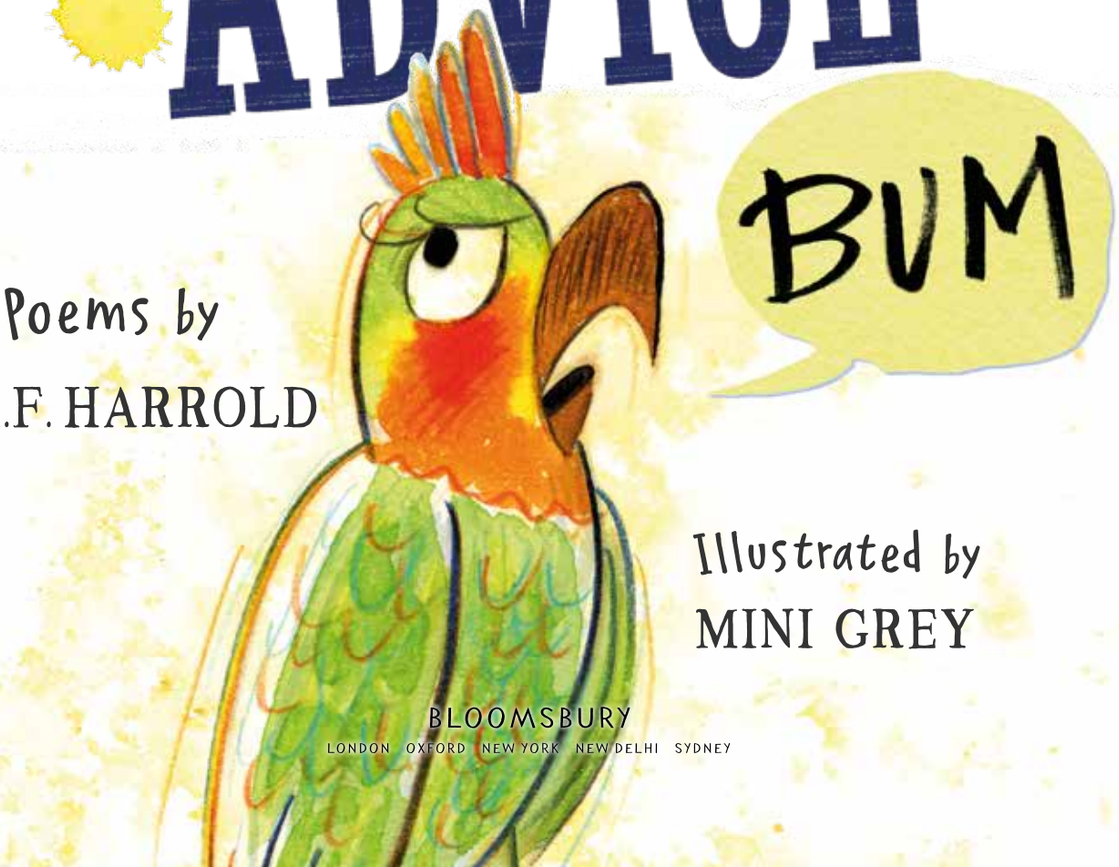
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THE BOOK OF NOT ENTIRELY USEFUL ADVICE



Poems by
A.F. HARROLD

Illustrated by
MINI GREY

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For Roger and Brian
(McGough and Patten, respectively),
this is all your fault
AFH



For John Vernon Lord
with vindaloo and rice
love from Mini












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Warnings

Don't do that.
Or that.
Or that.

As cute as it looks.
As bright as a button.
As sweet as honey pie.

It might shock you.
It might bite you.
It might smile wickedly when you turn away.

So just don't.
Don't.
Don't say I didn't warn you.



A Note for the Reader

It's a dangerous world, and so I have created this book to keep readers everywhere safe.

I've filled it with all the advice I could think of. Everything I've learnt over this long, long life of mine, and I believe the poems in this book will not only make you happy, not only keep you safe, but also – most importantly – stop you from getting eaten by tigers.

My friend Mini (who also knows all sorts of useful things and has never been eaten by a tiger) has made the pictures for this book, so that even people who don't usually like poems will be able to learn ways to survive this tricky and treacherous world, just by looking at the beautifully colourful advice-filled pages.

All you have to do, as the reader of these poems and advice, is to use your brain and work out for yourself which bits to follow and which bits to ignore. It is honestly so simple that I am willing to offer a MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

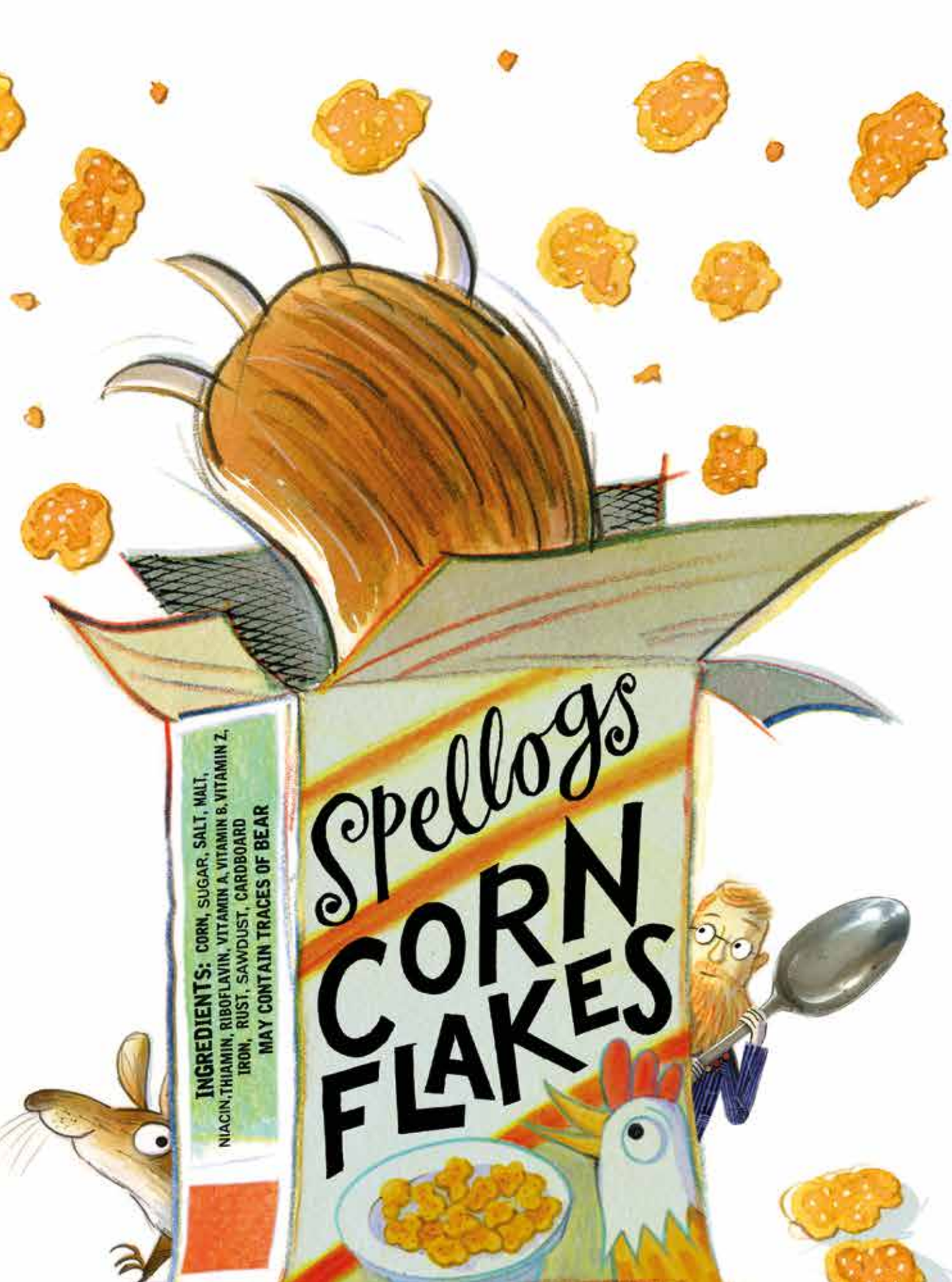
If, after you have read this book and absorbed all the advice, you still get eaten by a tiger, in Bournemouth, on a Thursday afternoon in August, while talking to a woman called Gerald Bumbersnook, then I will happily, without quibbling, refund you the entire price of this book – upon receipt of a letter from your mum, sent to me via the publisher (address in the front of this book). I can't say fairer than that, can I?

So, onward into the poems, my brave reader of wonders ...



SECTION 1

Advice mainly relating to food, ducks and dessert



The Perils of Breakfast

Watch out for bears in your cornflakes.

Bears are dangerous.
Bears have big claws.
Bears are always hungry.
At breakfast time, doubly so.

If you lift a spoonful of cornflakes to your mouth
and it's got a bear hiding in it,
well,
you'll be in trouble then. Won't you?
Eaten up just like that.
Gobble. Gobble. *Crunch.*

Fortunately
bears are larger than cornflakes
and so you can usually spot
a little bit of fur poking round the side.

If you do
spot a little bit of fur poking round the side
of the cornflake
in the spoon
you've lifted up to your mouth to have for your breakfast
then just put your spoon down,
step away
and choose something else instead.

But
watch out for crocodiles in your porridge
and watch out for tigers under your toast.

Breakfast Is Not Boring

In order
to make breakfast
more enjoyable
I pretend to be
a different animal each day.

Today I was a warthog
wallowing in my cereal bowl.

Yesterday I was a parrot
shouting
rude words
from the top of the kitchen cupboard.

Tomorrow I'll be a chameleon
and paint myself
the same colour
as the chair,
with bold felt tips.

I think
it's important to have a hobby

and,
my mum says,
a good wash
before you go to school.





The Most Toast

For breakfast I like to have the most toast.
I'll have three slices if you have two.
If you have an extra one, I'll take another.
If the bread's run out, I'll steal it from my brother's plate.

I should have a medal for the toast I've eaten.
It'd be a winner's medal – I've never been beaten.
You can't have my medal – you've not et enough.
When the toast gets going, my teeth get tough.

I eat the most toast cos I want to be the best,
but I ain't no good at playing the piano,
I can't paint a seagull or write a great play
and I've never scored a goal at home or away ...

So ... I eat the most toast.
I eat the most toast.
I know it's a boastful thing to say
but I can eat toast, I can eat toast, I can eat toast all day.

Now, when people see me coming they all sing:
Here comes the toast-man to-oast! – which *is* embarrassing,
but true.
Eating toast is my skill. What do you do?

Advert

If your granny's had a fall
and you go to visit her in hospital –
take her a bunch of cauliflowers.

If your teacher's moving on
and you're sad she'll soon be gone –
give her a bunch of cauliflowers.

If it's Mother's Day today
and you don't know how to say,
'Thanks Mum, I love you very much' –
try a bunch of cauliflowers.

Whatever the occasion,
whatever the emotion,
whatever the season –
say it with cauliflowers.

The Secret Life of the Cabbage

In the middle of the night
when the lights are out,
the cabbages ... start rolling.

Uprooted from the earth
they tumble down the hills,
bouncing in the moonlight.

Oh! Cabbages love to roll,
cabbages love to bounce,
cabbages love to be free.

Every morning men and women
with shovels scoop them up
and clear the roads and paths.

They bed in their reaching roots,
replant them in the earth,
recabbage the decabbaged fields.

If you've never seen the cabbages
heaped up outside your house in the morning then
those men and women have done their job.

But one day, when money's tight,
and they've been made unemployed,
it'll be cabbages for breakfast and for breakfast
and for breakfast.

