

POEMS ARE FOR SMILING OUT LOUD!

Tackle tongue twisters, confound your classmates with riddles, make your friends laugh and transform into a ball of slime as you perform these poems and bring them to life.

Discover performance and writing techniques to build your confidence. This is the perfect first book about the fun of poetry and spoken word.







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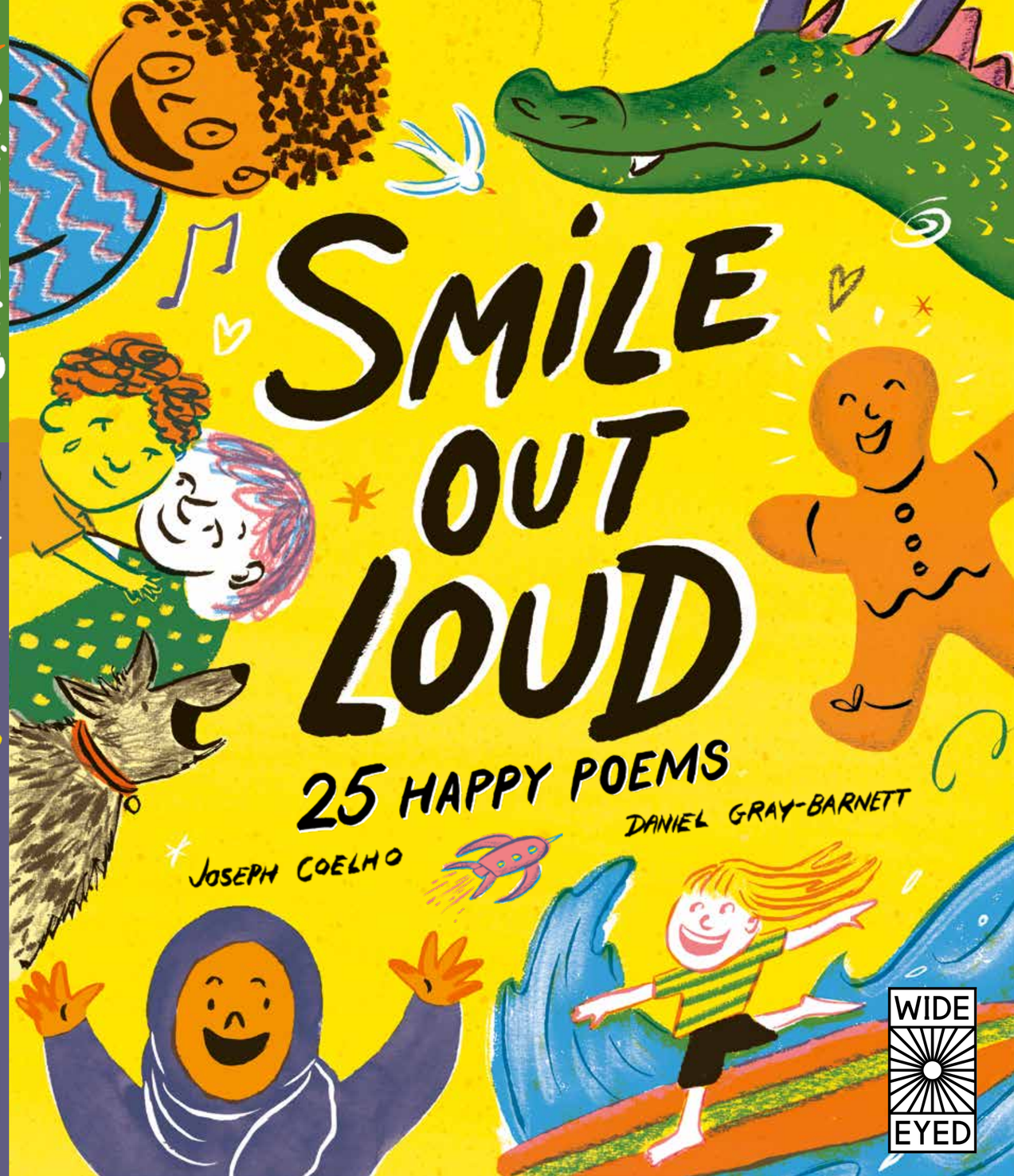
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SMILE OUT LOUD

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WE



SMILE OUT LOUD

25 HAPPY POEMS

DANIEL GRAY-BARNETT

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INTRODUCTION

A SMILE IS INFECTIOUS — TRY IT AND SEE!

When you smile, other people smile back, and just like that people start catching smiles. Some of those smiles might turn into giggles, chuckles and even big old belly laughs – you just never know. I've written these poems to help you spread some happiness.

Some poems involve doing silly walks, some have you pulling silly faces, and there are even some that will get all your mords in a wuddle! So take care, you may find that these poems lead to you and your friends rolling on the floor in a riot of whoops and chortles.

There are poems here for you to perform alone, with friends, and in large groups. There are all sorts of performance techniques to try out, too. However you perform these poems, remember the biggest rule of all... poetry is fun and ultimately there are no rules.

You can shout a poem intended to be whispered, read a group poem by yourself, or add actions to a tongue twister. You can mix up and dip into the different performance techniques whenever you want. So let's get started – jump in and start performing your poems **OUT LOUD!**

THE LAUGH

This poem is all about laughter starting as a little giggle and ending up taking over your entire body. Start reading with a small smile and make it bigger as you go. Then see if you can bring a little bit of chuckling into your voice. How far can you take it? Will you end up rolling on the floor laughing?



It started as a tickle
as a wriggle on my lips.
It turned into a giggle,
a wiggle of the hips.

It turned into a jitter,
a titter of the teeth.
My face is turning red
and it's begging for release.

It gasps into a guffaw!
Into a great big belly laugh.
If I whoop any louder
"Call the security staff!"







Now it's spreading to my friends
in snickers, chuckles and snorts.
If we roar any louder
we'll get a school report!

Now our sides are splitting!
We're on the floor laughing!

We cannot stop!
We will not stop!
It's threatening to choke!

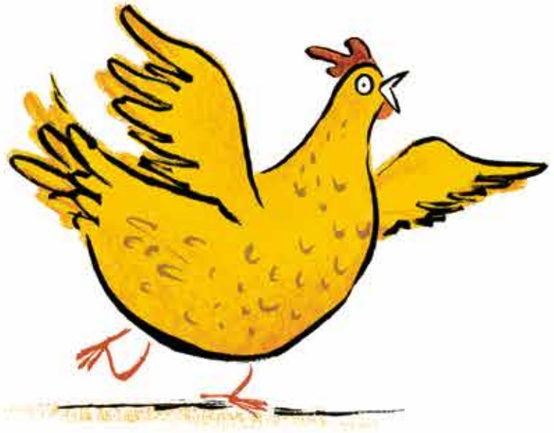
And all because of the telling
of a wonderfully silly joke.











WALKING FUNNY

These poems are instructions for some
funny walks to make you smile.
Can you perfect the walks
and memorise the poems?



THE DINOSAUR

Pull your trousers up
as far as they will go,
stick your bottom out
and walk like a chicken,
walk like a chicken,
walk like a chicken,
a finger-licking chicken.

But instead of clucking -
clucking while you're ducking,
let yourself roar!
Like a dinosaur,
like a dinosaur,
a roar-dinosaur!



THE BALLERINA

Stand on tiptoe
arms out in front
holding an imaginary belly,
Now turn!
Now spin!
Now leap!
and...
Plié! Plié! Petit
Jeté
flutter and glide
the day away.



THE SLOW-MO

Walk through egg yolks.
egg-aggerate your movements.

Let your strides become a slog – sloth slow.
Let the sloth-slow, slow-mo spread
(sluggish-slug-slow)
to your arms and head.

Watch as your face
clunks and gears
like drying paint
as time winds down.

ZEUGMAS

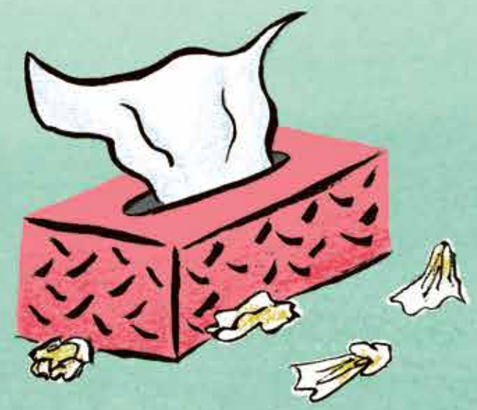
A zeugma is a word used to link two things or ideas at once – for example, "When she tripped me at the Valentine's dance, she broke my leg and my heart". This is a poem full of zeugmas! See if you can make up some zeugmas of your own.



When I went fishing
I **caught** a cod and a cold.
The cold got me coughing
and the cod felt pretty cold.

During the race
my nose and trainers **ran**!
I got through a box of tissues
before the race even began.

On holiday
I **surfed** the waves and the web.
It was hard to get Wi-Fi
with my laptop on my head.



At the pick 'n' mix
I **picked** some candy and my nose.
My fingers got pretty sticky,
so I ate the candy with my toes!

In the dark forest
the wind and the wolves **howled**.
The wind whisked itself away
whenever those wolves growled.

At the fair
I **lost** my temper and my phone.
I never found my temper
but I heard a few ring tones.

In the jungle
I **fell** into a hole and a bad mood.
The hole was full of angry beasts
that wouldn't share their food!



IMAGINATION RUNNING FREE

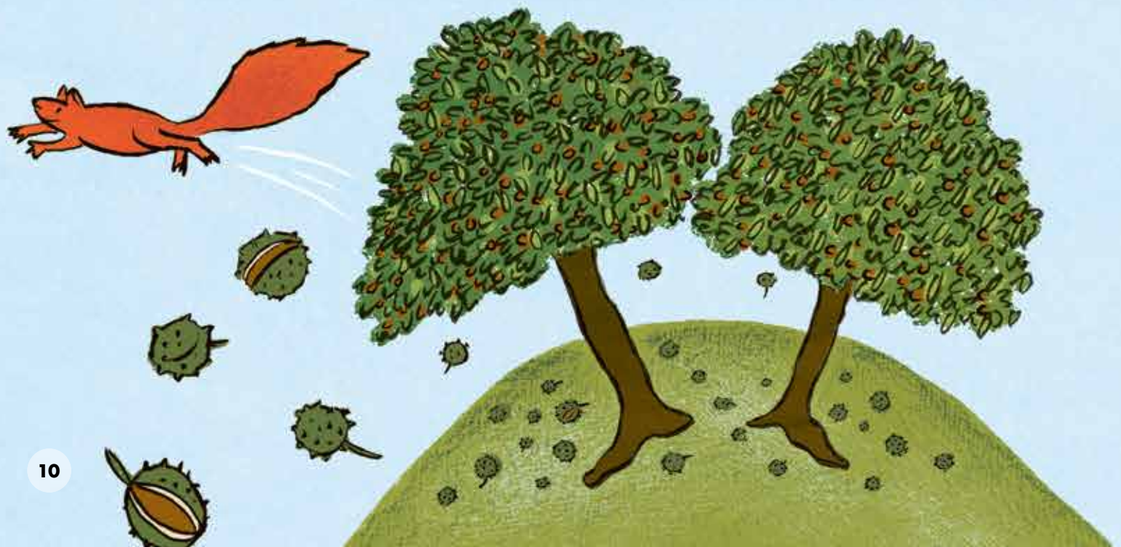
When reading this poem out loud, invite your audience to close their eyes and imagine the different scenes that the poem creates. But be warned, the poem has a silly ending!

Close your eyes
what do you see?
imagination running free.

Imagine your toes
in a gentle sea.
Imagination running free.

Imagine your legs
are two conker trees!
Imagination running free.

Imagine your knees
are stripy like bees!
imagination running free.



Imagine you're running with:
toes wet
legs wooden
knees stripy!

That's your imagination
running free.



For Gracie and Harrison – J.C.

For Taylem – D.G-B.



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