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Opening extract from
A First Book of Animals

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Baby Gorilla

The newest baby in the forest
opens her chestnut eyes:
she sees there's mist, and green, and trees.
Family too – sisters, brothers, aunties, cousins
and her big silver-backed papa.
She snuggles in her mum's strong arms,
her deep dark fur ...
and goes back to sleep.



A large flock of Arctic Terns is depicted in flight against a vibrant, textured blue background. The birds are shown in various stages of flight, with their long, slender wings spread wide. They have white bodies, black caps, and distinctive red beaks. The overall composition is dynamic and captures the grace and agility of these birds.

Arctic Tern

White wings, as delicate as paper,
and a body lighter than a cupcake,
but this small bird flies from pole to pole
and back again each year.

If you add up all the journeys
the Arctic tern makes in its life,
they'd reach up to the moon
and back again, three times.