INTRODUCTION

Words may be small, but they have power. With just one word, you can meet a new person. With two, you can tell them you're sorry or thank them, and with three, you can find out how they're feeling.

The very same words you use every day, shaped into a new order by another person, can make you see something completely differently. Perhaps you've learned about the activist Malala Yousafzai, and her famous quote "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world". Malala grew up in Pakistan, and was prevented from going to school by an extreme group called the Taliban. She spoke out, using her voice to fight for every girl's right to education. She became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, and her words have moved so many people around the world.

In this book, you'll find lots of wise and wonderful quotes from writers, thinkers and activists who have a lot to say. When we talk about a quote, we mean a short phrase that someone else has said or written. When we share it and repeat it, perhaps because it is important, memorable or beautiful, it becomes a quote.

In these pages, there are quotes about the seasons and storytelling, kites and kindness, dreaming and daring. About music, dragons, breakfast, oceans and books. If you spot a quote you particularly love in these pages, you might want to try to remember it. Then it will be with you always, and whenever you need it, you can repeat it to yourself.

These quotes are all in English, but their speakers are from all over the world and from across centuries. In here, you'll find quotes from the British playwright William Shakespeare, who was born nearly 500 years ago, and the Persian poet Jalal al-Din Rumi, born 800 years ago. Both writers still have something to say about what it's like to grow up, to be yourself, to be a friend.

If you turn to page 74, you'll see the British poet Lemn Sissay explain "My home is *here* in these words. And by reading them, you have opened the front door. Welcome! Come on in!" There are 366 quotes in this book, and each one can open a new door. Maybe you'll look up the people who said them. Maybe you'll discover the books these people wrote, the times they lived through, the discoveries they made, or the dreams they had. Of course, people aren't perfect – even people who say amazing things! We selected quotes we think are wonderful, but we all live in our own moment in history, and the views of the past are often very different from the views of today. We hope that these quotes and the people behind them might spark a discussion, inspire a story, or help you see from a new perspective.

This book is for you and there is no right way to read it. You can use this book by yourself, or with your loved ones. You can read it all in one go, or save one quote for bedtime every day of the year. You can take time to explore all the beautiful scenes in the illustrations created by Victoria Ball. Because you're a little different every day, these quotes might feel different each time you read them – depending on the weather, where you are, or what you were thinking about before you sat down to read.

Our world is full of brilliant quotes, and even in 256 pages, we haven't been able to include them all. As you read this, you might think of a quote you'd add to your own collection – something silly a friend said to you, advice from your family, or a beautiful description from a book you've loved. Even with all that's been said, there are so many words still to say.

The title of this book comes from a poem called 'Youth' by a wonderful poet called Langston Hughes, where he writes "We have tomorrow / Bright before us / Like a flame." He wrote this poem just over 100 years before this book published, at a time when Black people in America like him faced enormous prejudice and inequality. Hughes was full of dreams and full of attention, finding new ways to describe the joyful and difficult lives he saw all around him. Around our world today, there is a lot that needs to be changed – perhaps you can think of ways you want the world to be different? We hope you can look to the future with the bright ambition that Langston Hughes did. Because how you describe the world changes the world.

Eleanor Cousins Brown
Editor, Nosy Crow



JANUARY

1st

The best moments in reading are
when you come across something —
a thought,
a feeling,
a way of looking at things —
which you had thought special and particular to you.
Now here it is,
set down by someone else,
a person you have never met,
someone even who is long dead.
And it is as if a hand has come out and taken yours.

Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*

JANUARY

2nd

Life is a splendid gift.
There is nothing small in it.

Florence Nightingale

3rd

Beauty was not simply something to behold;
it was something one could do.

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

4th

What are days for?
Days are where we live.
They come, they wake us
Time and time over.
They are to be happy in:
Where can we live but days?

Philip Larkin, 'Days'

5th

Look deep, deep into nature,
and then you will understand
everything better.

Albert Einstein

6th

Look at that sea [. . .]
all silver and shadow
and vision of things not seen.

L. M. Montgomery,
Anne of Green Gables



7th

The Brain is deeper than the sea

Emily Dickinson, 'The Brain — is wider than the Sky'

8th

Not all those who wander are lost.

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

9th

Home isn't where you're from,
it's where you find light
when all grows dark.

Pierce Brown, *Golden Son*

10th

I would rather walk with a friend
in the dark, than walk alone in the light.

Helen Keller

11th

You must go a long journey
before you can really find out
how wonderful home is.

Tove Jansson,
Comet in Moominland

12th

My cat is all concentrated tiger.
I can only imagine the thousands
of millions of years
it must have taken to perfect her.

Grace Nichols, 'Tabby'



13th

She teaches me that the world is
made to be pounced on and enjoyed,
and that there is absolutely no reason
at all to hold back.

Annie Ernaux, *A Frozen Woman*



14th

It is quite possible that an animal has spoken
civilly to me and that I didn't catch the remark
because I wasn't paying attention.

E. B. White, *Charlotte's Web*



15th

How it is that animals understand things I do not know,
but it is certain that they do understand. Perhaps there is a language
which is not made of words and everything in the world understands it.
Perhaps there is a soul hidden in everything and it can always speak,
without even making a sound, to another soul.

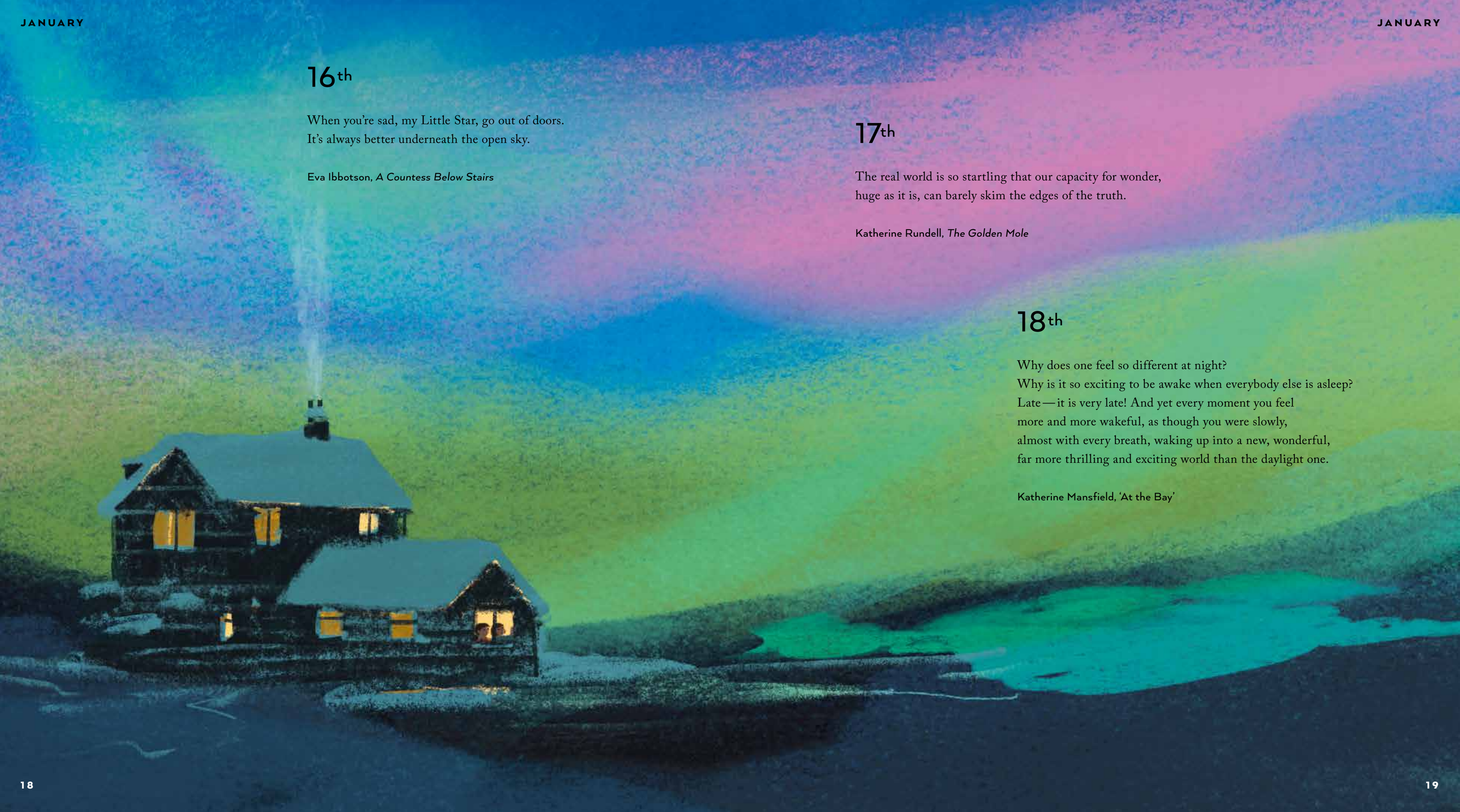
Frances Hodgson Burnett, *A Little Princess*



16th

When you're sad, my Little Star, go out of doors.
It's always better underneath the open sky.

Eva Ibbotson, *A Countess Below Stairs*



17th

The real world is so startling that our capacity for wonder,
huge as it is, can barely skim the edges of the truth.

Katherine Rundell, *The Golden Mole*

18th

Why does one feel so different at night?
Why is it so exciting to be awake when everybody else is asleep?
Late — it is very late! And yet every moment you feel
more and more wakeful, as though you were slowly,
almost with every breath, waking up into a new, wonderful,
far more thrilling and exciting world than the daylight one.

Katherine Mansfield, 'At the Bay'

19th

My mama always said piecing quilts is like making friends. She kept her eyes on the scissors as she cut up a piece of blue ticking. “Sometimes the more different fabrics—and people—are,” she said, “the stronger the pattern.”

Kirby Larson, *Hattie Big Sky*

20th

Nothing comes from nothing, Thieflet; no story comes from nowhere; new stories are born from old—it is the new combinations that make them new.

Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

21st

It is not those differences between us that are separating us. It is rather our refusal to recognise those differences.

Audre Lorde



22nd

Another world is not only possible,
she's on her way [. . .] On a quiet day,
if I listen very carefully, I can hear her breathing.

Arundhati Roy

23rd

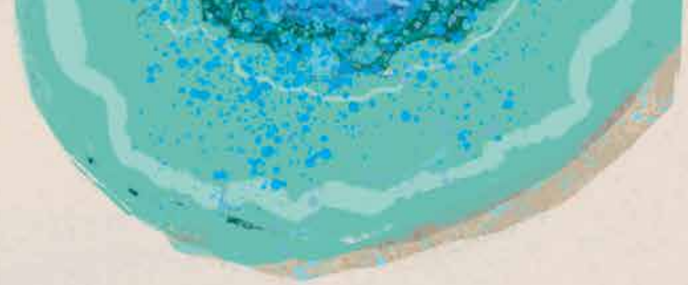
Have you ever heard the wonderful silence just before the dawn? [. . .]
Or the quiet and calm just as a storm ends?
Or perhaps you know the silence when you haven't
the answer to a question you've been asked,
or the hush of a country road at night,
or the expectant pause in a roomful of people
when someone is just about to speak, or, most beautiful
of all, the moment after the door closes and you're all alone
in the whole house? Each one is different, you know,
and all very beautiful, if you listen carefully.

Norton Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*

24th

Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks.
That means don't do it just for yourself.
You will want to leave the world a little
better for your having lived.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



25th

Let no one say the past is dead.
The past is all about us and within.

Oodgeroo Noonuccal, 'The Past'

















26th

I look for the stillness beneath all the noise
of the world, where everything is timeless.

Oprah Winfrey

27th

Just because no one's managed something
in the past, doesn't mean the future's lost.

Sarah Crossan, *Resist*





