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Opening extract from The Dragon with a Big Nose

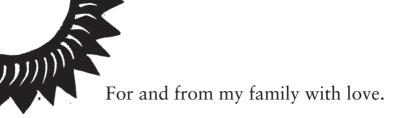
Written by **Kathy Hendersen**

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JANETTA OTTER-BARRY BOOKS

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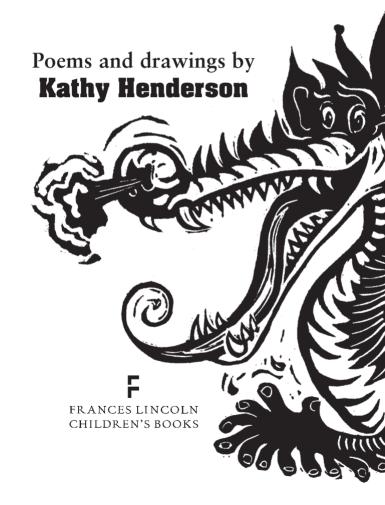
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THE DRAGON WITH A BIG NOSE



Today I read a bus stop

Today I read a bus stop and then I read a van, a poster and three carrier bags, some shop signs and a man who had a crazy T-shirt on.

I'd already read the cereal box, a mug, and the jam label and the headlines of the paper that was lying on the table.

I read some writing in the sky, I even read the road,

a tree, a sign stuck in the grass, some number plates that whistled past,

a bag of crisps, a birthday card, (it had my name on it so that was easy).8

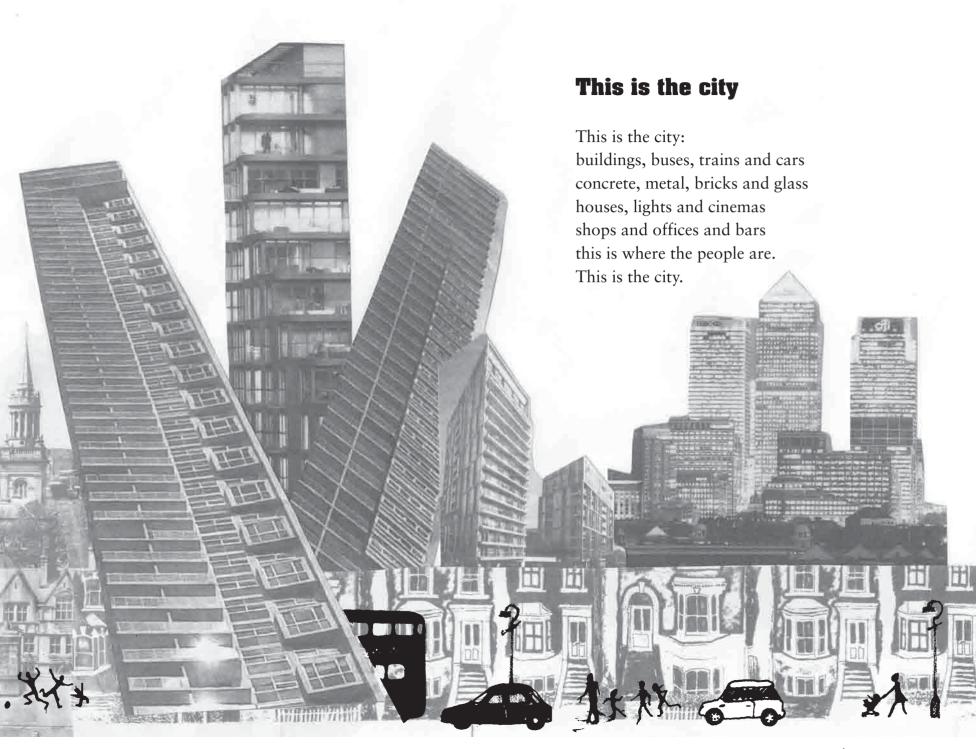
I was reading a text message when I should have read the door so then I pushed instead of pulled and dropped my mobile on the floor.

Then I started on this poem and went out for another look

because

reading is amazing and all the world's a book.







Out in the city

Out in the city what can you see?

A mother with a baby much smaller than me riding on her back in a big striped sash and a boy talking a language I don't understand.

There's a man with a fiddle and magic hands playing tunes that make my feet get up and dance and another with his hair in a cockatoo's crest and rings in his nose and his ear and his lip and a woman covered from head to toe just her eyes looking out through a cloth window

and right in the middle of all those streets I saw a girl who was walking a sheep.

Home again and shut the door. Tomorrow we'll go out and see some more.





The dragon with a big nose

The dragon with a big nose and twelve toes on each foot, eats flies and mince pies

and sometimes, when he's very bad, whole towns upside down,

streets and houses, shops and churches, schools and factories, undergrounds,

swallows them all quite whole and spits out the glass fast

treading very carefully somewhere else going away.

