

*The*  
ISLANDS

*of*  
MAGICAL

POETRY

BY  
HANOVER  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL



*The Islands of*  
Magical Poetry

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## Contents

<b>6</b>	<b>Introductions</b>
6	Justin Coe, Writing Facilitator
7	Polly Shields, Deputy Headteacher
8	The Emotion Ocean <i>by Lime, Maple and Oak Classes</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>The Island of Magical Poetry</b>
10	On Poetry Island <i>by Lime Class</i>
11	Poetry is... <i>by Rowan Class</i>
11	Love Poetry Island <i>by Lime Class</i>
13	On the Island of Onomatopoeia... <i>by Hazel and Holly Classes</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>The Isles of Silly</b>
14	Banana Splits Island <i>by Holly Class</i>
14	Crazy Zoo Island <i>by Holly Class</i>
16	The Strange Land of Tickle-Pickle-Block-Shock <i>by Holly Class</i>
16	In the Land of Old Iggy-Figgy <i>by Hazel Class</i>
16	In the Land of the Rotten Stink-Fish <i>by Hazel Class</i>
17	The World of Dragons, Wolves and Flying Fish <i>by Holly Class</i>
18	On Vertex Street <i>by Hazel Class</i>
19	We Have Never Ever Seen <i>by Hazel Class</i>
19	In the Land of the Old Hazel Nuts <i>by Hazel Class</i>
20	In This Silly Old Land <i>by Hazel and Holly Classes</i>
21	In the Land of the Seas <i>by Sohaib</i>
21	In the Land of the Ancient Cuckoo <i>by Hazel Class</i>
22	On the Silly Island <i>by Hazel Class</i>
22	In the Land of the Noobily-Noo <i>by Hazel Class</i>
23	In the Land of Ladidadidadidar <i>by Georgia</i>

<b>24</b>	<b>Island Creatures</b>
24	The Charming-Winged-Killer-Dragon <i>by Oak Class</i>
26	The Fluffy Camouflaging Unicorn <i>by Oak Class</i>
27	Husky <i>by Lime Class</i>
27	The Scaly-Winged Waving Praying Mantis <i>by Lime Class</i>
30	Tough-Red-Kicking-Bunny <i>by Lime Class</i>
30	Pig <i>by Maple Class</i>
31	The Three-Tailed Flying Fox <i>by Lime Class</i>
33	The Fierce Winged Flying Panda <i>by Lime Class</i>
34	The Cute Turtle-Shelled-Swimming-Koetle <i>by Maple Class</i>
34	The Uniseals <i>by Maple Class</i>
35	Snake <i>by Oak Class</i>
37	Stripy-Eyed-Jumping-Giraffe <i>by Maple Class</i>
38	The Amazing Secret of the Clingy-Clawed-Spitting-Chicken of the Island of Hell-Flippin'! <i>by Oak Class</i>
38	The Mysterious Murdering Mouse <i>by Oak Class</i>
39	The Fluffy-Pawed Sealicorn <i>by Maple Class</i>
<b>40</b>	<b>The Islands of Abstract</b>
40	On the Island of Embarrassment <i>by Rowan Class</i>
40	Happiness Island <i>by Silver Birch Class</i>
42	The Dreams of This Island <i>by Silver Birch Class</i>
42	On the Island of Noise <i>by Silver Birch Class</i>
43	Future Island <i>by Silver Birch Class</i>
44	The Island of Green <i>by Rowan Class</i>
45	On the Island of Blue <i>by Rowan Class</i>
45	The Island of Calm <i>by Lime, Maple and Oak Classes</i>
46	Angry Island <i>by Rowan Class</i>

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## Contents

48	Grief Island <i>by Willow Class</i>
49	The Other Island of Grief <i>by Willow Class</i>
51	Fun Island <i>by Willow Class</i>
51	The Island of Joy <i>by Lime, Maple and Oak Classes</i>
52	On the Island of Sad <i>by Lime, Maple and Oak Classes</i>
53	Chaos Island <i>by Willow Class</i>
54	Anarchy on Food Island! <i>by Willow Class</i>
55	The Teacher's Treasure Chest <i>by The Teaching Staff of Hanover Primary</i>

### **Note on Individual Contributions**

This project was all about working collectively and the vast majority of the poetry here has been written either by small groups of young people at tables, or by whole classes and sometimes by whole year groups. There were two individual contributions, however, that I couldn't resist including. Georgia skipped part of her break so that she could share with me her poem on *The Land of Ladidadidadidar*. It made me laugh. Meanwhile Sohaib went away after our session and created his own very fine book of poems and illustrations. His efforts have been acknowledged here with the reprint of one of those poems – *The Land of the Seas*.  
— Justin Coe, *Poet-in-Residence/*Writing Facilitator



Welcome to the Islands of Magical Poetry! On your visit to this awesome archipelago, you will encounter – amongst many other treasures – the lands of Chaos, Calm, Anger, Embarrassment and Joy. You will meet many mystical creatures like Dorito-eating dragons, clingy-clawed Spitting Chickens and Stripy-eyed Jumping Giraffes. And finally you will unearth the buried treasure chest containing all the golden secrets of the teachers of Hanover Primary.

The Islands of Magical Poetry is a book created by all the young people and staff of Hanover Primary School, from Year 2 to Year 6, as part of a Ministry of Stories poetry residency in March 2023.

As the Writing Facilitator, it was an absolute joy to work with such fun and inventive creatives in a school rich with the spirit of playful exploration. Year 2 created list and limerick style verse, inspired by nonsense poetry, to reinvent the Isles of Silly. Year 3 and 4 created island creatures through kennings descriptions, as well as using similes to conjure up an ocean of emotion. Year 5 and 6 wrote free-verse, infused with many skilful poetic techniques, to introduce us to the Islands of Abstract.

This book contains just some of the brilliant poems produced in only five days, all assembled from an assortment of group and individual work, scribbled on scrap paper, torn-out maps, and sticky notes.

I must give my thanks to Dorothy, Rob and Sally at Ministry of Stories for their support throughout the project, and to Lily for their brilliant illustration. Thank you to Jack and Polly for your warm welcome to the school, and to all the young people and teaching staff whose positivity, skill and creative energy have ensured that all the islands you travel to in these pages are enthused with poetic magic.

— *Justin Coe, Poet-in-Residence/ Writing Facilitator*

At our school we love stories, poems, people, fun and adventures, and so we are incredibly lucky to have worked with the fabulous Ministry of Stories on a number of projects over the last few years. Navigated by the very excellent Justin Coe, we set sail on this most recent project to explore the myriad of ways that words can be put together to make poetry – and also make an impact.

The challenge for the children was to work together around a theme, riffing on ideas, making connections, musing and choosing and refusing words to capture their ideas and thoughts and feelings. The challenge for Justin was to weave these scraps and ideas and emotions together to create a treasure chest of poems. Everyone on board has risen to the challenge and what you have in your hand is the result! We hope you enjoy exploring these islands as much as we enjoyed creating them.

— *Polly Shields, Deputy Headteacher,  
Hanover Primary School, 2023 \**

\* Holly Class, Year 2  
Hazel Class, Year 2  
Lime Class, Year 3  
Maple Class,  
Year 3, Year 4  
Oak Class, Year 4  
Rowan Class, Year 5  
Silver Birch Class,  
Year 5, Year 6  
Willow Class, Year 6

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### **The Emotion Ocean**

Our ship sails over the ocean of emotion

Over the waves of excitement  
Hoppy as coffee drinking kangaroos  
Bouncy as beach balls on trampolines

Over the boat-bossing waves of annoyance  
Pokey as paper-cuts and pins you sit on  
Shell-sharp waves that stab you under your bare feet

Our ship sails over the ocean of emotion

Over the waves of sorrow  
Sad waves that make you feel so small  
Like you are an ant crawling over an elephant's back  
Or a baby climbing a mountain of sand

Over the stormy waves of envy  
Destructive as lava asteroids crashing down to earth

Our ship sails over the ocean of emotion

Over the crashing waves of anger  
Fierce as the roar of jungle cats  
Stronger than weight-lifting centaurs

Over the murderous waves of fear  
Vicious as famished vampires  
And tigers who've had their tails bitten by snakes  
These waves could chop off our heads!

Our ship sails over the ocean of emotion

Over the laughing waves  
Tickly as the grass in the park  
A feather toothbrush  
Or a flamingo's punch

And our ship sails over the cool calm waves  
Gentle as the turtles we spot swimming in the sea's deep blue

Our ship sails over the vast ocean of emotion  
Onward to.....

The Islands of Magical Poetry

— *Lime, Maple and Oak Classes*

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# *The Islands of Magical Poetry*

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## **On Poetry Island**

I bathe in a comfortable bath  
I close my eyes and see  
The turtles swimming in the ocean  
Under the sun as bright as dynamite

Behind my eyes  
There are men made out of sushi  
And cats sleeping in gingerbread houses

Everything here is  
Made of chocolate popcorn  
And biscuit money

— *Lime Class*

## **Poetry Is....**

Poetry is  
Different ways of saying  
Or singing  
Or seeing  
Poetry is as alive  
As any living human being

— *Rowan Class*

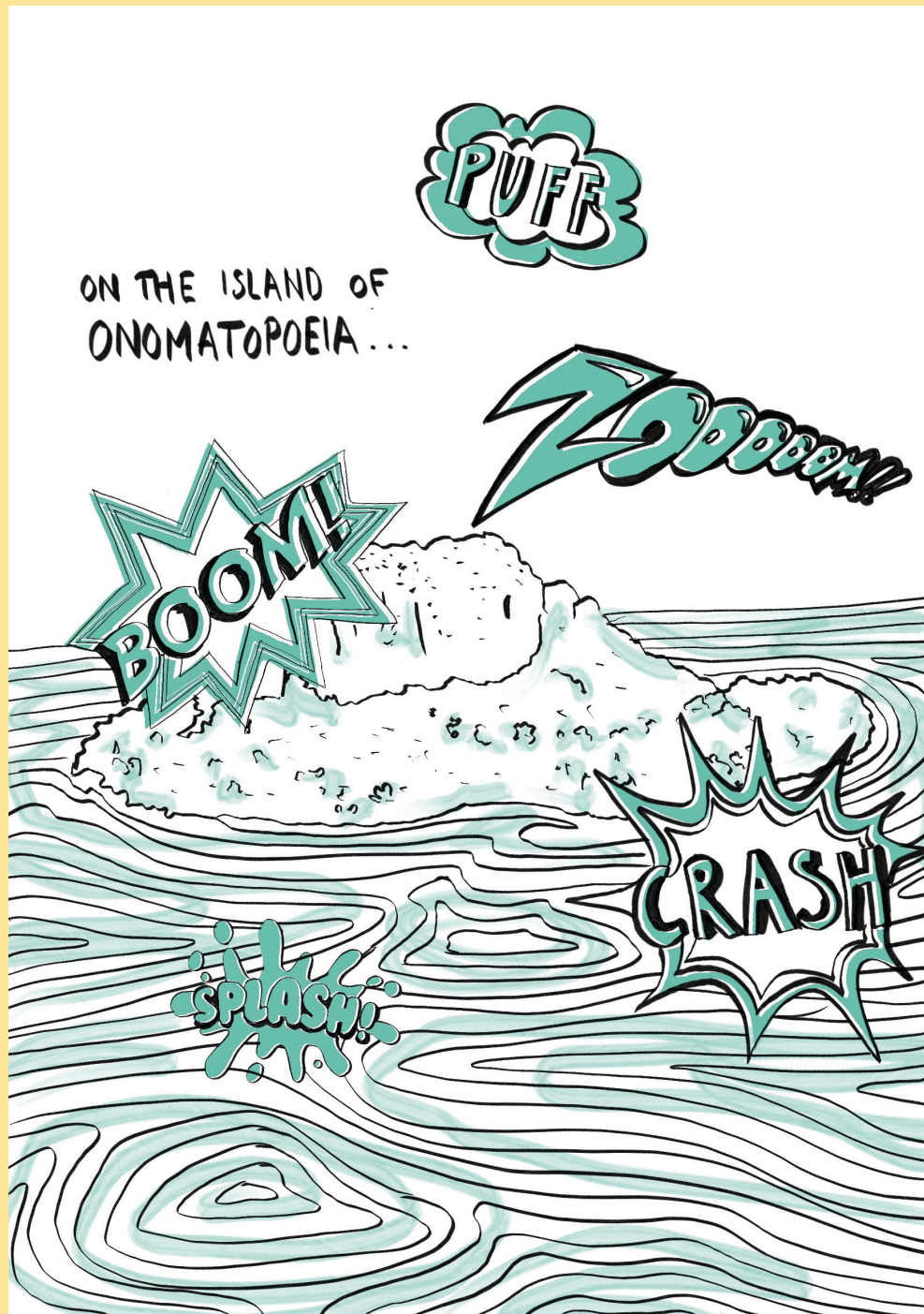
## **Love Poetry Island**

What will happen if we end up here  
And have to write love poems?

We will faint  
We will be sick  
We will kiss

And then  
We will have to go to the hospital

— *Lime Class*



### On the Island of Onomatopoeia...

- The wind PUFFS
- Angry men HUFF
- Clocks TICK
- Keyboards CLICK
- Monster boots STOMP
- Mouths CHOMP
- Trees SWAY
- Horses NEIGH
- Aeroplanes SWOOP
- Winners WHOOP
- Waves SPLASH
- Cars CRASH
- Cars BEEP
- Birds CHEEP
- Booers BOO
- Cows MOO
- Explosions BOOM
- Electric scooters ZOOM
- Crocodiles SNAP
- Our human hands CLAP

— Hazel and Holly Classes



# The Isles of Silly

## Banana Splits Island

Big-bottomed birds do the splits  
Cute komodo dragons scratch their nits  
Hairy hyenas chew on bananas  
While the huggy humans hug their phone chargers

— Holly Class

## Crazy Zoo Island

On Crazy Zoo Island  
An egg-shaped elephant  
brushes its bed  
A curly-haired cow bonks its head  
And a lazy leopard takes a mighty leap  
Over the sheep that are falling asleep

— Holly Class



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**The Strange Land of Tickle-Pickle-Block-Shock**

On the strange land of Tickle-Pickle-Block-Shock  
Cheesy chickens peck at the pickles  
Zig-zaggy zebras love being tickled  
Cheeky cheetahs bite on brick blocks  
While fainting flamingos all die of shock

— *Holly Class*

**In the Land of Old Iggy-Figgy**

In the Land of Old Iggy-Figgy  
There lives one silly old piggy  
And some boxes of teddies  
And some onion spaghetties  
If you go there you'll get very sticky!

— *Hazel Class*

**In the Land of the Rotten Stink-Fish**

In the Land of the Rotten Stink-Fish  
We all eat mud from a dish  
And instead of chips  
We put bugs on our lips  
And there's also a toad we can kish...

.....On the lips  
In the land of the Rotten Stink-Fish

— *Hazel Class*

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**The World of Dragons, Wolves and Flying Fish**

I saw a dragon-eating drake sicking up a dictionary into a fish tank  
I saw a flying fluff-fish floating in a deep deep sleep  
I saw a Dorito-eating dragon giggling at his own funny prank  
All while the woolly wolf gobbled up a radioactive sheep!

— *Holly Class*

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### **On Vertex Street**

On Vertex Street there's a school  
Where there is a jellyful pool  
And we haven't a clue  
What is a gnu  
But anyway, come here, it's cool!

— *Hazel Class*

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### **We Have Never Ever Seen**

We have never ever seen  
A pink pufferfish  
Dancing with a dirty dish

We have never ever seen  
A kind kangaroo  
Jumping to the moon

We have never ever seen  
A Bananasaurus Rex  
With a vast blue neck

But we have seen  
A sharp-tooth shark  
With a big loud bark

SO WATCH OUT!!!

— *Hazel Class*

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### **In the Land of the Old Hazel Nuts**

In the Land of the Old Hazel Nuts  
You can talk with some cups  
People drink out of pans  
And from their trash-cans  
Then turn into Firepop Pups

— *Hazel Class*

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### **In This Silly Old Land**

I know children who get their letters in a puddle (oops I mean a muddle!)  
I know teachers who make sandcastles out of toilet paper  
I know a horse that says 'Moo'  
And dogs that do burps  
In this silly old land

I know rabbits that walk without hopping  
I know cows that swim in the sea  
I even know cows that live up in the trees  
...And trees that walk and talk in clickety-clack  
In this silly old land

And did you know that  
In this silly old land  
The sun is as cold as an ice cube?  
And that there are  
Some potatoes  
That really really love eating chocolate?!

— *Hazel and Holly Classes*

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### **In the Land of the Seas**

In the land of the seas  
You can see all the fleas  
And also the bees  
That hide behind trees  
In the land of the seas  
  
And in the land of the seas  
You can smell all of the breeze  
So come along please  
And don't lose your keys  
To the Land of the Seas

— *Sohaib*

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### **In the Land of the Ancient Cuckoo**

In the Land of the Ancient Cuckoo  
There lives a blue kangaroo  
He has in his belly  
A whole lot of jelly  
And we can all jump on it too!

— *Hazel Class*



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### **On the Silly Island**

The toilet burps  
The river runs from right  
                    To  
                    Left  
A cow says neigh  
A spider says yeah  
And the clock rocks to the sound of  
Sausages

— *Hazel Class*

### **In the Land of the Noobily-Noo**

In the land of the Noobily-Noo  
We climb on TV's at the zoo  
We throw some cake  
At the silly snake  
And that is just what we do  
(In the land of the Noobily Noo)

— *Hazel Class*

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### **In the Land of Ladidadidadidar**

In the Land of Ladidadidadidar  
People aren't so careful as we are  
They just sing to themselves  
'La-di-da-di-da-di-da'  
And instead of eating ice cream  
They put it all over their hands!

In the Land of Ladidadidadidar  
People even get their ways wrong  
Left and right, right and left  
They don't where they are going  
They just sing to themselves  
'La-di-da-di-da-di-da'

When they try to eat  
They bump into the trees  
And all they can say is  
'I don't know'

— *Georgia*

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# Island Creatures

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## **The Charming-Winged-Killer-Dragon**

Enemy-killer

Drain-giggler

Tiger-runner

Crowd-stunner

Giant-stomper

Bone-chomper

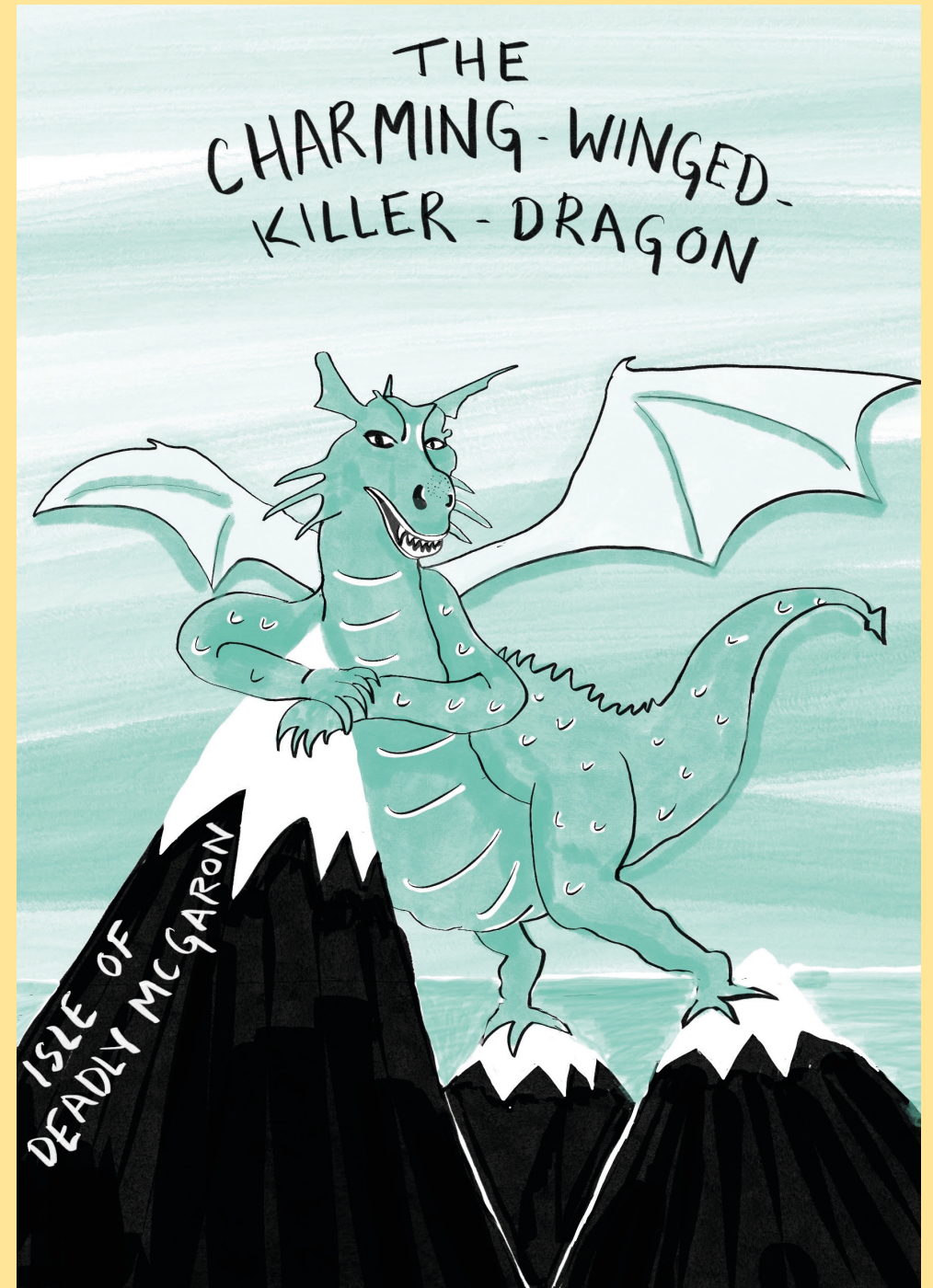
Blood-mopper

Heart-stopper...

Beware the Charming-Winged-Killer-Dragon

On the Isle of Deadly McGarron

— *Oak Class*



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### **The Fluffy Camouflaging Unicorn**

She hides in houses through the day  
But at night, comes out to play

A four-legged-stomper  
Four-hooved-jumper  
Two-winged-flying-  
Deathly-hunter

This chameleon-impersonator  
Is one thing now, another later

But for now, let's call her...  
The Fluffy-Camouflaging Unicorn  
From the hidden forbidden land of Prawn

— *Oak Class*

### **Husky**

Fluff-ball  
Stink-bomb-maker  
Sleigh-puller  
Ice-raker  
Stick-biter  
Stick-breaker  
Rabbit-tracker  
Lynx-chaser  
Alaska-inhabitor  
Snow-navigator

— *Lime Class*

### **The Scaly-Winged Waving Praying Mantis**

If it's an  
Ear-piercing-crier  
A soft rockbed-lier  
A fence-leaper  
And a tree-peeper  
  
A six-legged-sprinter  
A five-eyed-winker  
A nose-hitter, a raver  
And a two-tailed-waver

Then it must be the  
Scaly-winged-waving-praying mantis  
From the paradise of Paris-Palace

— *Lime Class*





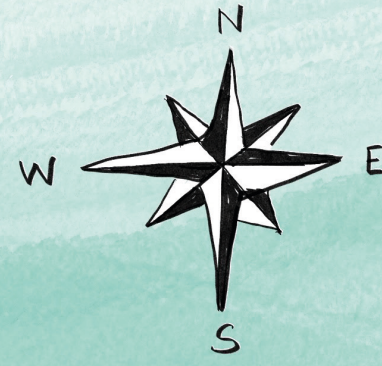
BANANA  
SPLITS ISLAND

CRAZY ZOO  
ISLAND

TICKLE  
PICKLE  
BLOCK  
SHOCK

LAUGHING WAVES

NOBILITY - NOO



LADADADADADAR

# OCEAN of EMOTION

CHASIS  
ISLAND

ISLAND  
OF NOISE

ISLAND  
OF JOY

ROTTEN  
STINK  
FISH

THE  
ISLAND  
OF GREEN

HAPPINESS  
ISLAND

LAND OF  
THE  
ANCIENT  
CUCKOO

ISLAND OF  
EMBARRASSMENT

THE  
ISLAND  
OF BLUE

OLD 1697 FIGGY

PURE  
ISLAND

ISLAND  
OF  
SWEET  
SOURCES

# EMOTION

ANGRY  
ISLAND

STORMY WAVES  
OF ENVY

CRASHING WAVES  
OF ANGER

SAD  
ISLAND

FUN  
ISLAND

THE  
ISLANDS  
OF  
MAGICAL  
POETRY

BOAT BOSSING WAVES OF ANNOYANCE

FOOD  
ISLAND



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### **Tough-Red-Kicking-Bunny**

Watch out here comes the...

High-jumping  
Low-leaping  
Thigh-thumping  
Carrot-eating  
Flower-flinging  
Hand-hopping  
Hard-hitting  
Soft-knocking  
Never-stopping  
Fast-running  
Pulse-throbbing  
Sweet-humming  
Tough-Red-Kicking-Bunny  
On the Island of Sticky Honey

— *Lime Class*

### **Pig**

Farm-dweller  
Muck-walker  
Mud-roller  
Snort-talker  
Yuck-digester  
Trotter-painter  
Bacon-detester  
And ham-hater!

Meet the  
Wide pink oink-machine called Peppa

— *Maple Class*

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### **The Three-Tailed Flying Fox**

Here comes the...

High-flying  
Trick-trying  
Caterwauling  
Tummy-crawling  
Land-leaping  
Sleep-creeping  
Upside-down-walking  
French-talking  
Three-Tailed-Flying-Fox  
From the Island of Old Clocks

— *Lime Class*



### The Fierce Winged Flying Panda

She's fast-flying  
And anger-crying  
Yet dilly-dally-walking  
And blablabla-talking

She's mouse-beating  
And blood-leaching  
Yet burger-eating  
And poetry-teaching

Such a surprise is the  
Fierce-Winged-Flying-Panda  
From the island called Alexander

— *Lime Class*

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### **The Cute Turtle-Shelled-Swimming-Koetle**

Eucalyptus-eater

Quiet-talker

Fun-swimmer

Sleepy-walker

Playful-flyer

Annoying-moaner

Crazy-cryer

Sad-groaner

That's the cute Turtle-Shelled-Swimming-Koetle

Found only on the lost Island of Battle

— *Maple Class*

### **The Uniseals**

You king of hurters

You loudest of burpers

You big bottom-farters

You noodle-slurpers

You water-flyers

You super-flirters

You're the weirdest-skaters

And the world's worst surfers

You make me squeal

You Uniseals

Here on the Island of Daffodils!

— *Maple Class*

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### **Snake**

Killer-eyed

Mice-frightener

Rat-terrifier

Tongue-hisser

Maraca-shaker

Hot-desert-inhabitor

Long-shiny-slithery-scaly-predator

— *Oak Class*

# STRIPY EYED JUMPING GIRAFFE



LAND OF SIT IN THE BATH

## Stripy-Eyed-Jumping-Giraffe

Mud-diving  
Mud-digging  
Smooth-gliding  
Rope-skipping

Horse-riding  
Fast-galloping  
Dustpath-striding  
Giddy-balancing

Slow-floating  
Show-boating

Stripy-eyed Jumping Giraffe  
On the land of Sit-in-the-Bath

— Maple Class



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**The Amazing Secret of the  
Clingy-Clawed-Spitting-Chicken  
of the Island of Hell-Flippin'!**

A bat-killer  
A grasshopper-squisher  
A cow-skewerer  
A bird-chewer  
A serpent-savager  
A racoon-slicer  
A massacre-doer  
Yet a turnip-pooer

— *Oak Class*

**The Mysterious Murdering Mouse**

A fur-fired  
Sly-spyer  
Blood-spiller  
Target-killer  
Water-walker  
Silent-stalker  
Crafty-crawler  
Midnight-tiptoeer

Meet the Mysterious Murdering Mouse  
On the dystopian Island of Crazy Hell House

— *Oak Class*

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**The Fluffy-Pawed Sealicorn**

Rainbow fish-eater  
Sparkle-starter  
Finned-flyer  
Firework-farter  
Lazy-sleeper  
Wave-maker  
Whisker-whisperer  
Attention-taker

Greet the Fluffy-Pawed-Sealicorn  
On the Island of Sweetcorn

— *Maple Class*

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# The Islands of Abstract

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## On the Island of Embarrassment

On the Island of Embarrassment

You stand outside

And dance in public

Wearing a pair

Of pants on your head

Instead of where

They should be

And then

Your trousers fall down

So everyone can see

You alone

On your own island of embarrassment

— *Rowan Class*

## Happiness Island

See a ball being kicked on a beach

Two palm trees for goals

See a barefoot adventurer

Walking the shore

Headphones on

Listening to Ohio tunes

The sun shining on

Everyone equally

No need

For poetry

Everybody

Living together

Happy ever after forever

— *Silver Birch Class*



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## The Dreams of This Island

The dreams of this island are wild and crazy  
The dreams of this island are hot and hazy  
The dreams of this island are long and lazy  
The dreams of this island are soft and cosy

Dinosaur roaring in your face while you're eating steak CRAZY dreams  
Wandering lost through the mountain-mist HAZY dreams  
Staying in, licking a tasty ice-cream LAZY dreams  
Laying down your head on a soft pillow-bed COSY dreams

The dreams of this island are wild and crazy  
The dreams of this island are hot and hazy  
The dreams of this island are long and lazy  
The dreams of this island are soft and cosy

Crazy hazy lazy cosy – dozy  
The dreams of this island...

— *Silver Birch Class*

## On the Island of Noise

BOOMS  
BANGS  
BALLOONS POPPING  
BEES BUZZING  
BIRDS CHIRPING  
KIDS CRUNCHING CRISPS  
CHILDREN WHISTLING  
CARS ON THE MOTORWAY  
CLOCKS TICKING  
TEACHERS SCREAMING  
THE CLANGING ON METAL  
COKE VOLCANOES!  
LOTS OF  
NOISE!

— *Silver Birch Class*

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## Future Island

In the land of the iPhone 73  
In the land of the PS65  
In the land of the Nintendo 67  
School is over

And you can see me  
Chilling in a tree  
Feeling calm as a  
Motionless ocean  
Cracking open  
A coconut  
And counting my money

You can call me  
As happy as can be  
Though unfortunately

I am now as old as a grandma

— *Silver Birch Class*

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## The Island of Green

The are two sides of  
The Island of Green

There is a mean side  
Where live  
Jealousy and disgust

Where people eat Kale  
And keep throwing up

But there is another side  
Of the Island of Green

That is fresh and clean

On this side can be seen  
The sparkling jewels of nature  
Trees, grass and leaves

This side of the Island of Green  
Lives in peace

— *Rowan Class*

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## On the Island of Blue

There are two sides too  
On the Island of Blue

A happy side and a sad side

On the happy side  
There's pumpkin soup  
And chickens that dance  
Free of their coops

But on the sad side  
On a bad day  
Tears make floods  
And blue fades to... grey

— *Rowan Class*

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## The Island of Calm

Dogs don't bark on the Island of Calm  
Everyday's a summer's day on the Island of Calm  
I'll see you with an ice cream by the canal on the Island of Calm  
Lay down your yoga mat on the Island of Calm  
Be one of the cool people chilling  
All living in harmony  
On the Island of Calm

— *Lime, Maple and Oak Classes*

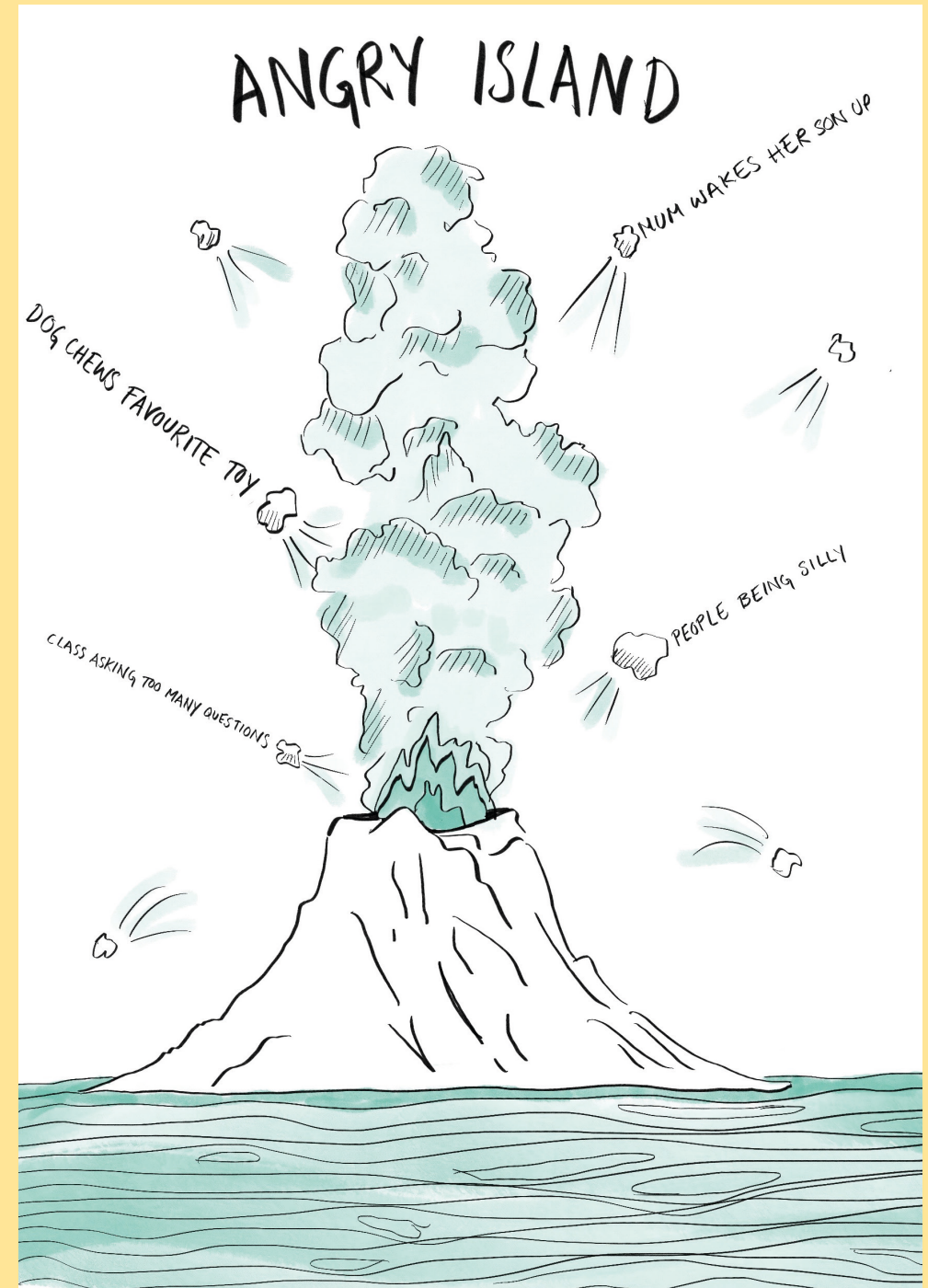
## Angry Island

If in a serious moment, some people start being silly  
Or if a class asks too many questions  
Or if a dog chews a favourite toy  
Or if a Mum wakes up her son too early for school  
Or if a baby gets hurt  
Or if a child gets told off when it's not deserved  
Or if things just don't go the way that everybody knows they should go

Then...

This Island gets ANGRY!

— Rowan Class





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## Grief Island

You seem to be the only one here  
Treading through the sad sands  
Lonely and cold  
On the Island of Grief

You asked to be taken here  
But at what cost?  
All happiness  
All joy  
All spirit  
Is lost

Old memories  
Ghostly children  
And smiles that will never return  
Return  
...to haunt you

There is nowhere to hide here  
But in the mist that enshrouds you  
That closes in all around you

You stand at the funeral  
Stifling a cry  
Above you the darkness of the sky  
And not even the consolation of the moon

— *Willow Class*

## The Other Island of Grief

No PS4  
No Xbox  
No Nintendo  
No Call of Duty  
No Fortnite  
No phones  
No soft drinks  
No popcorn  
And no Wi-Fi!

— *Willow Class*



### Fun Island

Fall down the fun hole  
And come to Fun Island  
Where happiness  
Is always on the horizon

The capital of Fun Island  
Is Happyville  
While Russ Millions  
Plays some drill

There's loads of thrills  
On Fun Island  
You travel about by rollercoaster  
And never get bored  
You just chill

The sun shines all the time  
On Fun Island

Woody and Buzz Lightyear  
Live here

And in the end  
Even the monsters  
Become your friends

And best of all  
The Vegan Mum  
(Who's not so fun)  
Never visits here

So fall down that fun hole  
And come to Fun Island!

— Willow Class

### The Island of Joy

No school today or any day  
Where are we? The Island of Joy!

With our friends and family on holiday  
Where are we? The Island of Joy!

Apples in a tree and a seal colony  
Where are we? The Island of Joy!

Dodos dancing, having a party  
Where are we? The Island of Joy!

Our dream team forever winning  
the league  
Where are we? The Island of Joy!

Drink up your double cup of bubble tea  
Where are we? The Island of Joy!

Smiles on our faces, we live happily  
Where are we? The Island of Joy

Oh boy!  
The Island of Joy!

— Lime, Maple and Oak Classes

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### **On the Island of Sad**

Everyone's an emo  
And all the bunnies  
Are sad

We all play alone  
And sadly  
Like a simile you can't think up

All the iPhones are broken  
And the seals are all extinct

And the island is surrounded  
By a sea of salty tears

And we are as sad  
As a tree without its branches  
Trying to wave  
Goodbye

Can you hear the children cry?

Here where  
The ice cream always  
    falls  
        off  
          the  
            cone

— *Lime, Maple and Oak Classes*

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### **Chaos Island**

Have you ever seen a sponge  
That *really* lives in a pineapple under the sea?

Have you ever seen a cow *actually* jumping over the moon?

Have you ever seen Bob the Builder not building buildings but breaking them?

If you haven't why not set sail  
To the Island of Chaos where you can see it all?!

Here where a mouse is as big as a house  
And a Maine Coon cat is the size of the moon's face

Here where lights flash and children scream  
Crocodiles jump and squids fly  
You might meet the island's King, a bubbly Baboon

So why not spend an awful afternoon  
On the Island of Chaos?!

— *Willow Class*

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## **Anarchy on Food Island!**

Volcano eruption!  
Soup flows everywhere  
...While the liquorice frog  
Just swings through the air

The books have been eaten  
The libraries are bare  
The sugar cane monkeys  
Devour their own hair

Up on meat mountain  
There's puddles of cheese  
Cracker fish sink  
On the whipped cream seas

Rock candy avalanche!  
The potato bell rings  
...While the liquorice frog  
Just sits there and swings

Yum-gummy gremlins  
Chew on human feet  
And chubby chihuahuas  
Plot plans as we speak

And beware of the toaster!  
It shoots bread in the eyes  
Of the ballistic bunnies  
Who take to the skies

While fast Pizza frisbees  
Whizz all around...  
...And where is that frog?  
Nowhere to be found

— *Willow Class*

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## **The Teacher's Treasure Chest**

Buried deep  
One hundred feet below the sands  
Of this idyllic island  
Lies the teachers' treasure chest of secrets

Buried here  
All the things that kept us going  
Through the toughest years  
Of our careers

The solar-powered whiteboard pens  
And the endless bottles of creativity and patience

Freddo (Freddy Frog) bars  
Footballs  
Jars of sweets to recharge  
And packets of instant imagination

Music to dance to  
Our friends, the doppelgangers  
(We couldn't have coped without you!)  
And the smile of the child  
Who didn't smile yesterday

A shrine to Pritt Stick  
A box of Lego bricks  
And words invented by children that we never knew we needed  
'I'm feeling cryful today'  
'No way, he's an annoyer!'

The look that could quell a class  
The sound of children's voices singing together  
A magic mute button  
And a bit of sunshine.

— *The Teaching Staff of Hanover Primary*

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