

Home

This book is fire, is tablets of clay, magical marks
scorched hot in desert sun, in ovens of book.

This book lights its own flame, is warmth, solace;
brighter than engine's spark; than furnaces.

No lakes, no cooling towers can put out this book,
held in a place of elsewhere, in this boy's burning hands,

not even the lily cool of this child,
who cleaves pages, butterflies words.

Book makes her; she makes book, glides forward
like a fish finds current, on her silver spine
all that flowed from the writer as writing began.

She bathes in white book. Sometimes,

poised on the diving board of book,
her toes placed perfect on a ledge of blue
she wakes in a place of elsewhere, becomes this child
on the edge of flight. At any moment may
take to air, words rising, dipping, swirling,
scissor-tailing sky, againnew, newagain.

Imagine we bring these children home,
earthing foxes snuggling, safe to a cave
no wolf can ever blow down, opening to grand cavern,
thick walls of book - straight-backed, right-angled, always.
Imagine more homes, opening their doors
to children who grow, remain children, know book.

Commissioned by President CILIP

Editor's Prayer

Post, Mail, Telegraph, Courier,
Standard, Express - however it comes,
your Messenger from a grey world,
may it find you Independent,
stepping into your day a Leader, Pioneer.
May it always bring News,
with an Echo of the old,
root you as surely as Sun, Star, Mercury
continue their steady Review.
Your Journal, Chronicle,
your one true Record -
may it bring you the best of Times,
Mirror your world, and as you sleep,
turn, turn, stay true.
Observer, Guardian, Sentinel -
may it Herald your dawn.

Paper Caper

Drip catcher, hole patcher,
window edger, wobble wedger,
pipe warmer, china storer,
maché maker, granddad waker,

vagrant's pleasure, desperate measure,
pet-house cleaner, glass gleamer,
bug ejector, head protector,
draught trapper, thigh slapper,

mirror shiner, hat liner,
parcel packer, carpet backer,
nuisance cuffer, shoe stuffer,
floor blotter, fly swatter,

chip wrapper, fill-a-gapper,
dipstick wiper, apple ripener,
windscreen saver, greeting waver,
peel taker, message maker,

dog guzunder, one-day wonder,
fire lighter, morning brightener,
hamster nester, poet tester,
reader needer, CLEAR LEADER.

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