

WHO

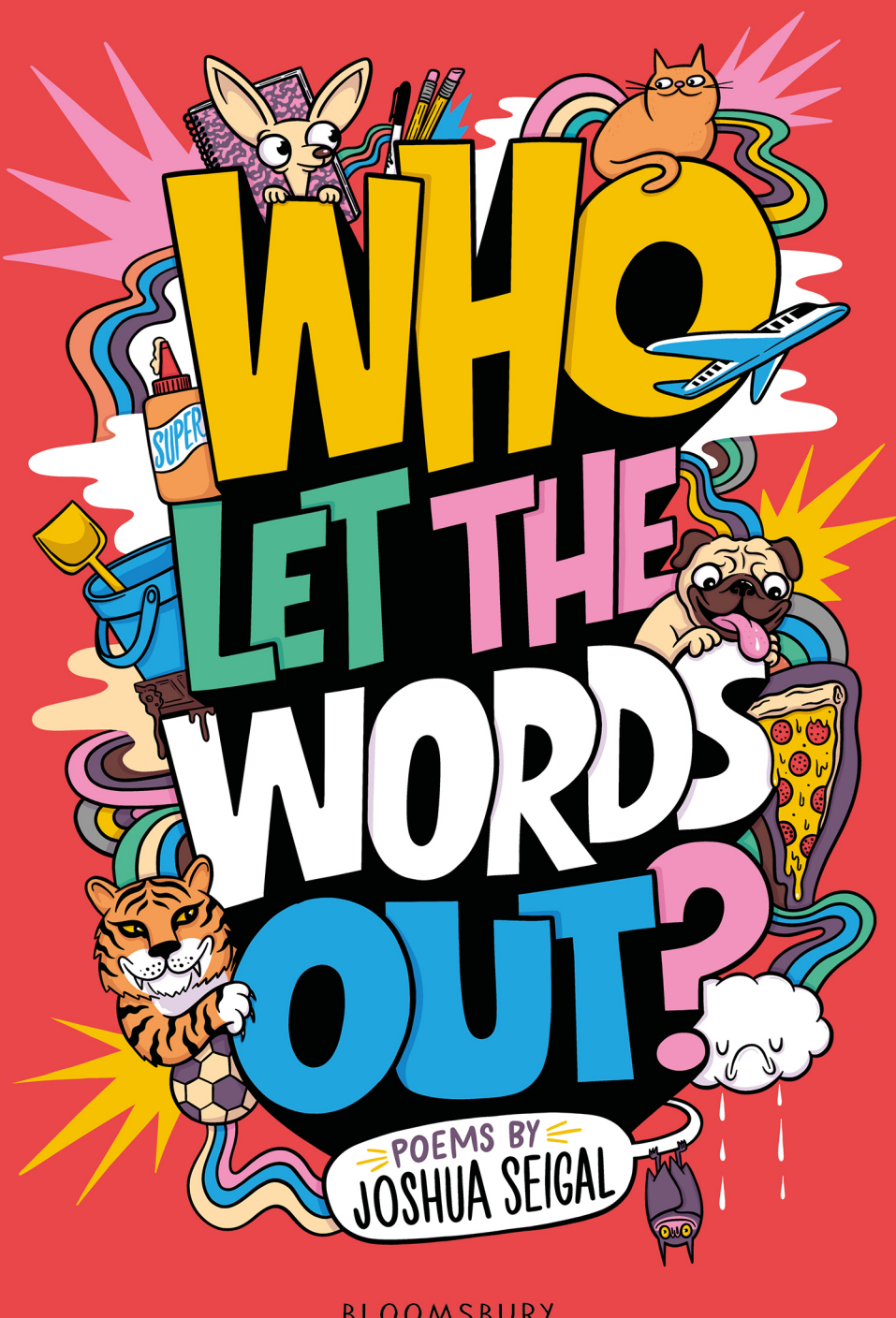
LET THE

WORDS

OUT?

POEMS BY  
JOSHUA SEIGAL

BLOOMSBURY



**WHO  
LET THE  
WORDS  
OUT?**

BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION  
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc  
50 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, UK  
29 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland

BLOOMSBURY, BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION and the Diana logo are trademarks  
of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc  
First published in Great Britain in 2023 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

Text copyright © Joshua Seigal, 2023  
Illustrations copyright © Chris Piascik, 2023

Joshua Seigal and Chris Piascik have asserted their rights under the Copyright,  
Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as Authors of this work

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc does not have any control over, or responsibility  
for, any third-party websites referred to or in this book. All internet addresses  
given in this book were correct at the time of going to press. The author and  
publisher regret any inconvenience caused if addresses have changed or sites  
have ceased to exist, but can accept no responsibility for any such changes

This is a work of fiction. Names and characters are the product of the author's  
imagination and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely  
coincidental.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or  
transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including  
photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system,  
without prior permission in writing from the publishers

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: PB: 978-1-80199-209-1; ePDF: 978-1-80199-210-7;  
ePub: 978-1-80199-208-4

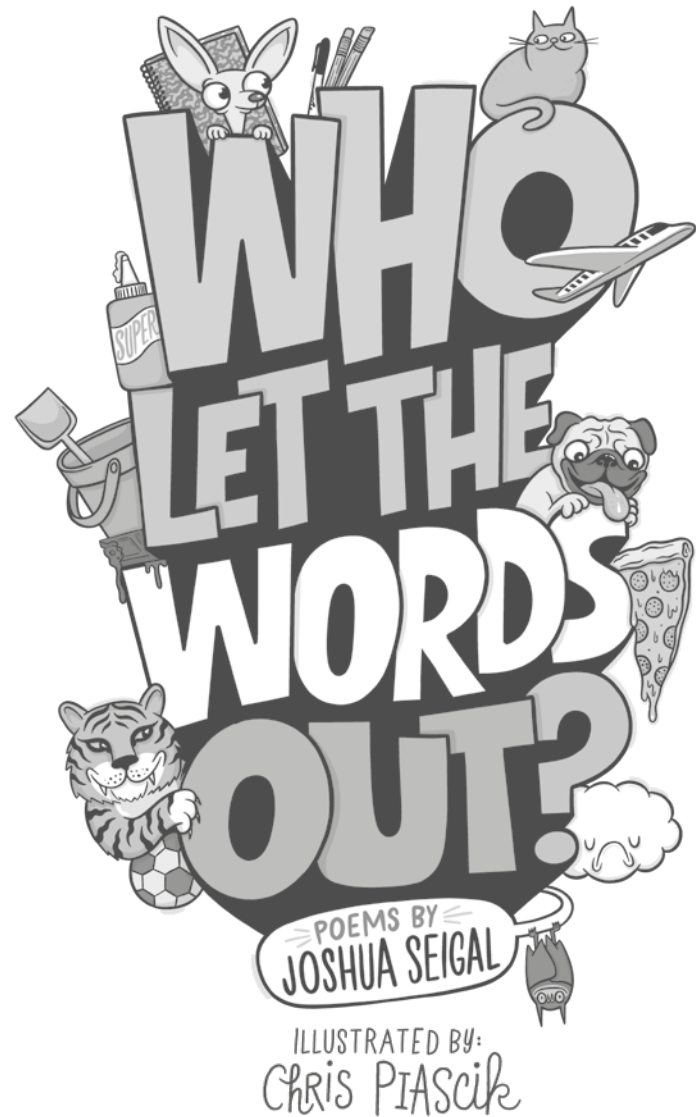
2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

Text design by Clare Mills

Printed and bound in CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY



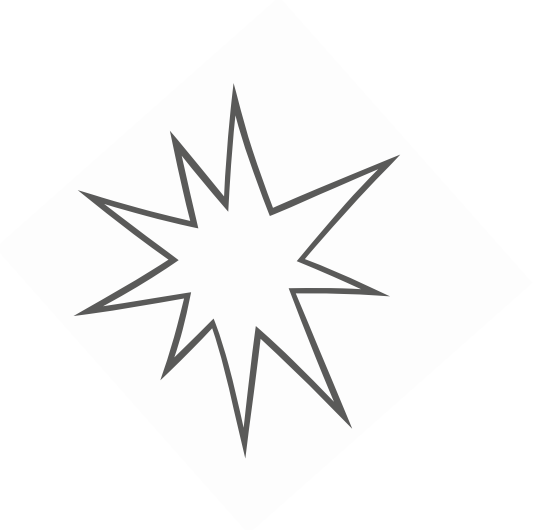
To find out more about our authors and books visit [www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com) and  
sign up for our newsletters




BLOOMSBURY EDUCATION  
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY




# CONTENTS




<i>Welcome</i> .....	11
Every Parent's Worst Nightmare .....	13
Who Let the Words Out? .....	14
Strap In .....	16
I Don't Really Like You .....	19
Ideas .....	21
Advice .....	22
That Dog .....	24
Don't Get Me Started .....	26
Typo's .....	28
Unputdownable .....	30
Poem for Libraries .....	32
Easily Distracted .....	36





The Orange Table .....	38
Gifted .....	40
Mistaken Identity .....	41
Pets in Class .....	42
Kitted Out .....	44
TA .....	46
Sick Bucket .....	48
Ava's Gone .....	50
The Power .....	52
Names .....	54
My Pet Fleas .....	56
How to Cuddle a Tiger .....	58
Big Scaredy Cat .....	60
Cat Rear Criminal .....	62
The Worst Team? .....	64
Left Field .....	66



Horsing Around .....	68
Hide and Seek .....	70
Precipitation Problem .....	72
Seasick .....	74
The Ten Best Things about Nonsense Poetry .....	76
Haiku Trilogy .....	77
Give Me a Break .....	78
It Is What It Is .....	79
Rhyme Addiction .....	80
Never .....	82
The Knowledge .....	84
Got a Handle .....	85
On Reflection .....	87
A Question .....	88
Arithmetical Animal Haiku .....	89
This Flesh Is Spesh .....	90



Mallardy .....	91
For Sale .....	92
Kissing Miss .....	93
They Say .....	94
Normal .....	96
Unconkered .....	98
A Poor Trait .....	99
Going Feral .....	100
Careers .....	102
Last Day of School .....	104
Home .....	105
Where I Live .....	108
Uncle Herbert .....	110
A Vow .....	111
Airport .....	112
Off Quay .....	114

Thank You .....	116
Consumer .....	117
I Know My Brother's Secrets .....	118
Dreams .....	120
Grandpa .....	122
The Face .....	123
Anniversaries .....	124
I Found It .....	126
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	128






## WELCOME

My name is Joshua Seigal, or Josh for short. Welcome to my book, *Who Let The Words Out?*. Before we get started, I'll let you in on a secret: the person who let the words out is ME! In some places, this means I have used strange words that you may not have come across before. I love collecting words, and while you read this book you can do the same: make a note of any words or phrases you don't understand, and then look up their meanings online or in a dictionary.\*

There are lots of different types of poem in this book. Some of the poems are funny, a couple are quite sad, and there is even a poem that will turn you green if you read it backwards (I'm not going to tell you which one that is). If you don't like a poem, simply skip over it until you find something you enjoy. There are poems about all sorts of things like food, school, family, hippos' tongues, itty kitty cats, and even about words themselves. When you get to the end of the book, go back to the beginning and read it again. Who would have thought that words could be so efficacious? (Look it up.)

\*One or two of the words in this book are made up, so they won't be in any dictionary. I'm a poet, so I can make up words if I want to. No one can stop me. Fnarg.



## WHO LET THE WORDS OUT?

I know a thing that might make you laugh:  
a coffee-cup holder is called a 'zarf'.

Here's something else that I deem rather fine:  
the prong on a fork is called a 'tine'.

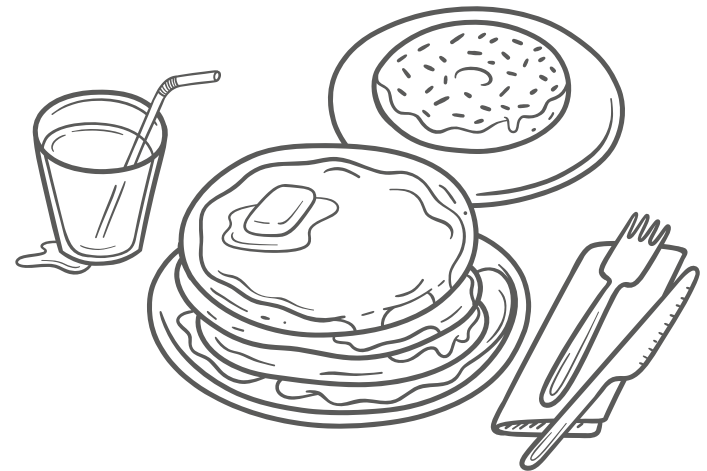
When it comes to odd words there are plenty of cases:  
an 'aglet' is tubing attached to your laces;

when pieces of paper are what you desire  
the sensible thing is to order a 'quire';

and how about this, it's pretty spectacular:  
eating your breakfast is rather 'jentacular'.

Words can be 'sterling' and words can be 'antic';  
when words are let loose they can be 'corybantic'

so next time you learn of a word such as 'ruddled'  
you'd best look it up so you don't get 'befuddled'.



## POEM FOR LIBRARIES

Come to a place  
full of wonder and light  
and sparkling stories  
to brighten your night;  
of tales and fables  
and beautiful beams  
that flash in your mind  
and set fire to your dreams.

Come to a place  
full of horror and dread,  
of demons and dragons  
that howl in your head;  
of terrible tigers  
with blood-spattered claws  
and lives that are shattered  
by famines and wars.



Come to a place  
full of dates, facts and figures  
and jokes that will have you  
in stitches and sniggers;  
a place you can stroll  
through the meadows of history,  
scaling the sides  
of the mountain of mystery.

Come to a place  
that can sate your addiction  
to rollicking rhymes  
and to fabulous fiction;  
a place you can travel  
through time at your leisure:  
a library of pages  
to savour and treasure.

## HOW TO CUDDLE A TIGER

Pat it gently.  
Show no fear.  
Tickle it  
behind the ear.

Stroke it softly.  
Feel its fur.  
Kiss it sweetly.  
Hear it purr.

Gaze with love  
into its eyes.  
Play a ballad.  
Eulogise.

Rub its tummy.  
Chuck its chin.  
Hunker down  
and snuggle in.

Follow closely  
what I say...  
then be prepared  
to run away.





## GOING FERAL

He's strutting on the tables.  
He's drawing on the wall.  
He's whinnying and neighing like a horse.  
He's crying for his mummy  
and gyrating in the hall.  
He's bellowing with terrifying force.

He's eating bits of paper.  
He's dancing with his shoe.  
His eyes are doing backflips in his head.  
He's drooling quite profusely  
as he toots on a kazoo.  
He's hopping and his face is turning red.

He's flapping like a chicken.  
He's hurling stuff around.  
One doesn't see such antics every day.  
He's burping out the alphabet.  
He's stamping on the ground...  
I really hope my teacher is OK.