

Poetry in English

This book for intermediate- to advanced-level students will really improve your English!

Learn English with
these fantastic poems

- Learn over 150 useful words and expressions!
- Improve your listening skills!
- Increase your range of vocabulary!
- Perfect your pronunciation and spoken English!

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Learn better English for your future!
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Welcome

TO THE POETRY IN ENGLISH BOOK

This book will help you learn over 150 useful words and expressions, and really improve your listening, pronunciation and speaking skills, as well as increasing your range of vocabulary:

THIS BOOK IS PERFECT FOR...

- Learners of all ages!
- Parents of children learning English.
- Teachers of English!

THIS BOOK INCLUDES:

- A selection of poems by George Szirtes.
- Activities to increase your range of vocabulary.
- Audio files to improve your listening skills.
- A wide variety of topics and themes related to English-language culture.
- Comprehension exercises so you can check your understanding.
- Pronunciation activities to perfect your speaking skills.
- Glossaries in English so you can learn the meaning of new words.



THERE ARE SIX KEY FEATURES TO THIS BOOK.

1 IMAGES

The photos and images will help you understand the language and better appreciate the meaning of the poems.

2 AUDIO FILES

The audio files will help improve your listening, pronunciation and speaking skills. You'll also learn about lots of features of spoken English, such as sentence stress, intonation and rhythm.

3 DEFINITIONS

The English-language definitions of the key terms and expressions will help you understand the meaning of words and get you thinking in English.

4 VOCABULARY

The poems have been carefully selected so you will learn lots of useful words. You'll also see how language can be used in interesting and original ways. This will help develop your sense of creativity and stimulate your passion for English.

5 TOPICS & THEMES

The interesting topics and themes will help you learn about traditions from English-speaking countries. Also, having language organised in topics and themes is great for your vocabulary development as it's easier to learn words when they're grouped together.

6 RHYMING LANGUAGE

The rhyming language will help you learn about the different sounds in English. On top of that, rhyming language is easier to memorise, so you'll learn even more English.

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And we hope you enjoy learning lots of English with this booklet.

*The Hot English Team
There are six key features to this book.*



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George Szirtes



George Szirtes was born in Budapest in 1948 and came to England as a refugee with his parents and younger brother following the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. He grew up in London and trained as a painter in Leeds and London. He is the author of some 15 books of poetry, a similar number of books translated from Hungarian, and a few miscellaneous titles. His first book, *The Slant Door* (1979), was joint winner of the *Faber Memorial Prize*. In 2004, he won the *T S Elliot Prize* for *Reel*, and was shortlisted for the prize again in 2009 for *The Burning of the Books* and for *Bad Machine* (2013). There were a number of other awards in between. Bloodaxe published his *New and Collected Poems* in 2008. This title was listed in *The Independent* as one of the Books of the Year. His translations from Hungarian have won international prizes, including the *Best Translated Book Award* in the USA for László Krasznahorkai's *Satantango* (2013), and his latest book for children, *In the Land of the Giants* won the CLPE Prize for best collection of poetry for children, also in 2013. He is a *Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature* in the UK, and of the *Széchenyi Academy of Arts and Letters* in Hungary. He is married to painter Clarissa Upchurch, and recently retired from teaching at the University of East Anglia. For a fuller CV see his website at georgeszirtes.blogspot.co.uk



Monkeys pull such silly faces
even the nicest are disgraces.

I once knew a chimpanzee
who kept on chattering all through tea.

I once knew a Barbary ape
who bent a teaspoon out of shape.

I once knew a Marmoset
who wrecked an entire dinner set.

I once knew a Tamarin
who threw my pudding in the bin.

I once knew a Colobus
who ate the cake, left none for us.

I once knew an Orangutan
who couldn't distinguish quiche
from flan.

If you're expecting one for tea
get smart and take this tip from me -

shun apes and monkeys when you can,
cancel! (Or change the seating plan.)



Marlie's apes & monkeys

PRE-LISTENING

Tick the things you should do at the dinner table. Put a cross beside the things you shouldn't do.

- Try to eat all the food on your plate
- Say "please" and "thank you"
- Put your feet on the table
- Throw food at other guests
- Use a knife, fork and spoon to eat
- Eat food from other people's plates
- Put your elbows on the table
- Stay seated until everyone has finished eating
- Eat as quickly as you can

LISTENING I

You're going to listen to a poem about some monkeys who are invited for tea. Read or listen to it once. Which monkey is the naughtiest? Why?

LISTENING II

Read or listen to the poem again. Then, write the name of a monkey next to each question. Who...



Tamarin



Orangutan



Chimpanzee



Colobus



Marmoset



Barbary ape

1. ...ate the cake? *the Colobus*
2. ...bent a teaspoon?
3. ...kept on chattering?
4. ...threw the pudding in the bin?
5. ...wrecked a dinner set?
6. ...couldn't distinguish quiche from flan?

PRONUNCIATION

MATCHING

Draw lines between the rhyming sounds. With multi-syllable words, match the final sound of the word (for example, *chimpanzee*). Then listen to check your answers.

- 1 chimpanzee
- 2 ape
- 3 Marmoset
- 4 Tamarin
- 5 Colobus
- 6 Orangutan

- us
- shape
- bin
- tea
- flan
- set



TEA

"Tea" (also known as "afternoon tea") is a little meal that some people have between 4pm and 6pm. It consists of a cup of tea and some sandwiches or cakes. Cafés and hotels often serve afternoon tea.

GLOSSARY

- to pull a face** *expression*
to change the look on your face so you look happy, sad, funny, silly, etc.
- a disgrace** *noun*
someone who is a "disgrace" does bad things and behaves badly
- to chatter** *verb*
to talk quickly and continuously
- tea** *noun*
a small meal between 4pm and 6pm. It consists of a cup of tea and cakes, etc.
- to bend out of shape** *expression*
if you "bend something out of shape", you use force to change its shape
- to wreck** *verb*
to break, destroy or ruin something
- a dinner set** *noun*
a collection of plates and cups that are the same colour and design
- a pudding** *noun*
a type of warm cake made from flour, fat and eggs
- a bin** *noun*
a container for rubbish (old bits of paper, food, etc.)
- to distinguish** *verb*
if you can't "distinguish" A from B, you can't see the difference between A and B
- a quiche** *noun*
a type of food with a pastry base that's filled with eggs, cheese and other ingredients
- a flan** *noun*
a type of food with a pastry base that's filled with fruit and other sweet ingredients
- get smart** *expression*
be intelligent, be clever
- a tip** *noun*
a piece of useful information to help you do something
- to shun** *verb*
if you "shun" something, you stay away from that thing
- a seating plan** *noun*
a diagram with information about where each person must sit at a table