

'Chrissie Gittins has a McGough-like flair for idiomatic surrealism, as in *Driven to Distraction*, which opens with 'I picked up a bus in the High Street/then put it down on the park.'

Michael Thorn, The Times Educational Supplement

'Chrissie Gittins is an interesting new voice in children's poetry.'

Morag Styles, writer & lecturer (Homerton College) on children's literature

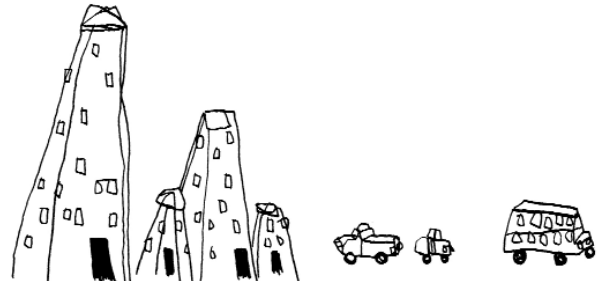
Chrissie Gittins's pamphlet collection of children's poems *The Listening Station* was launched at the Poetry Society in 1998 –

'I like the warmth and immediacy of the poems... But I think *The Shortest Days* is my favourite – limpid and deceptively simple.'

Helen Dunmore, poet & novelist

'I had great fun reading *The Listening Station*. It brightened up a dreary November evening!'

Alistair Niven, former Director of Literature, British Council



If you want to know how Mustafa the Tortoise from Turkey became Ken the pet in Catford, why Sam bought a budgie when he absolutely wanted a canary, or what happened when Silly Cilla disappeared into a pink cloud of hot air, then this collection will tell you. There are poems about the double lives of a parent and of a teacher, a badly behaved baby, and an extraordinary barbeque; there are messages from an Egyptian Heart Scarab, poems which poke fun at punctuation, and a poem which looks at child slavery at sea in the eighteenth century.

Chrissie Gittins has just won the Belmont Poetry Prize for poets who write for children (won last year by Roger McGough). Her winning poems – *The Powder Monkey* and *Bradshaw Plots His Revenge* are part of this collection. Other poems have been published in Macmillan, Hodder Wayland and Pearson Education anthologies. Chrissie has read at the Royal Festival Hall, the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the British Council Bangkok. She has read and run workshops in schools across England and Scotland, and she is a member of the Poetry Society's *poetryclass* training team for teachers. Chrissie is currently Poet-in-Residence with 'gifted and talented' children in Southwark

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