TRACK RECORD

A community poetry project in Camden





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Betjeman Poetry Prize is delighted to team up with HS1 Ltd (owners of St Pancras International) to create 'Track Record', a community poetry project in Camden.

London-based poet Paul Lyalls - star of the BBC's Let's Write Poetry: The Big Slam - held workshops in Torriano Primary and Argyle Primary School, working with 100 Year 5 children to produce the wonderful poems published in this book.

Many thanks to Paul Lyalls for his inspiration, to HS1 Ltd for their financial support and to all the young writers who contributed to the project just before the lockdown.

Poetry, just like St. Pancras International has lots of great platforms. Platforms that take you places, on journeys through funny, challenging and beautiful times. The platforms of poetry are accessible to all and allow us to see the world and all its unseen wonders, setbacks and special moments in new and magical ways. Argyle and Torriano Year 5 students have been amazing poetry passengers ensuring all who read this book of their poems have an amazing journey with words. Such great kids to work with and such committed teachers who saw this project through when the world was going into lockdown. I am so proud of all the children and their great poems.

Paul Lyalls, Poet in Residence for Track Record 2020

We're proud to have supported Track Record for another year, in partnership with the Betjeman Poetry Prize. At St. Pancras we're committed to working with the local community to support the arts and young people, particularly during what has been a difficult year for them. We're delighted to publish their wonderful work within this booklet and in the station this autumn for visitors to enjoy.

Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director at HS1 Ltd (owners of St. Pancras International)

5E Torriano

Going outside

Stepping into my unknown life, with hope that the day is well. Wishing the city goodbye. I felt alive and my spirits were high. Flowers springing up around me, stepping into such child freedom. Nothing other than green was visible. I felt as bright as the sun. As awake as the moon. As excited as a shaken bottle of fizzing pop about to explode. *Imogen 5E Torriano*

My brother watching on his phone

When I opened my eyes he's lost in his digital life. Everything that could be in the world or that could be somewhere else. Watching this digitised experience. *Ayman 5E Torriano*

My cat's face

Grey fluffy fluff, fuzzy fuzziness. Snuggly fur, squishing me. Like falling in the clouds, rolling around. Where be our, delicious dreamy food? Do I love the universe! *Evie 5E Torriano*

I want to go back to sleep

Refusing to accept waking up! Leave my soft, silky smoothness. Something that backs up my argument! Not wanting to open my closed eyes. Going back into my dreams. *Tasneem 5E Torriano*

What is the time?

I open my eyes wondering, so I look through the window to see if I can work it out. The outdoors, something that goes in and out, eventually, I check for myself. *Jamie 5E Torriano*

You can't walk on clouds

They are fluffy cotton buds. Gracefully floating in the sky, waiting, for someone to fall through. *Milly 5E Torriano*

Tomorrow

A new day is here. The sun shines on my face. I stare out of the window the sky looks like fire, yet, it's as blue as the ocean. But why is it I want a new day? I want a new sunrise to shine. Twenty-four hours to wait again. *Ruby 5E Torriano*

Where did yesterday go?

What happened to Yesterday? You're gone. Gone like thin air! This unbelievable day before, come back. Make it just me again. *Khaled 5E Torriano*

Space never ends

Space is like you, look close and you will see it never ends. Full of excitement it will never end. Come on, go up there. Jump around, slowly fall down, so much fun for everyone. *Amiira 5E Torriano*

Walking my dog

Hand gripping the lead. Like a myth that leads it to its destiny. Me and my pal, walk happily together. Into the park, that has more dogs! *Greta 5E Torriano*

Guitar

Wooden base, neck and head. Delicate to handle. I love all its many strings. They're hidden mysteries, but not forever. Who needs the internet to release? *Linus 5E Torriano*

What am I feeling today?

Why do I feel feelings? That make you do things you do and don't want to do. Something inside you, just waiting to get let out. Why am I sometimes scared, but not always happy? Invisible, but noticeable. *Eloise 5E Torriano*

Dance is my passion

Relève, pirouettes, leaps, kicks, splits! All are dance and it never ends. A pulse of liveliness that flows through. So, listen to the music! *Kaileigh 5E Torriano*

When I'm sad, where does my happiness go?

Sad's head pounding with anxiety. Happy's feet up on the sofa watching TV. Where have my emotions gone? *Miya 5E Torriano*

Brightness

When you open the door.The shining bright light enters your room.A shield that will save you.You step into its glow.A guardian to a never-ending daydream.*Berru 5E Torriano*

What does sorry actually mean?

Sorry they say, just sorry. Lots of words, it doesn't change anything, Don't they understand? All the emotions, rushing, destroyed. *Ava 5E Torriano*

Cleaning my dad's car

A dirty layer of dust, waiting to be cleaned. Wiping away negativity, spreading joy, flowing freely polished clean, colour of wonder. *Sajid 5E Torriano*

Food!

Run down the stairs, pancakes with cream and fruit. Pancakes, a golden light we need. I don't want my sisters to have any so I gobble it up! They are angry with me, uh-oh! *Hafsa 5E Torriano*

Brightness

The darkness vanishes away. Creeping out under the doorstep. A shine grows in front of my protease eyes, white, black and flash, I see before me. Like I'm walking into the sun. *Saniya 5E Torriano*

Feeding my cat

The moggy restaurant is open! A miracle we all need, My fat cat hungrily runs in. What more could he want? *Ochie 5E Torriano*

The world

A rip, to get angry with paper. One is just a number. Nine is a bigger number. The Night is the light that cuts it like a sword. An ice cream is just an ice cream. And the Euro star is a long tunnel. To somewhere far away. *Ronnie 5E Torriano*

How old are you?

Torriano is my school. East London is part of London. Electric cars, buses and trucks. Nuts are good to crack. *Mateen 5E Torriano*

I had to be quiet

I'm told to be silent. So that my baby brother doesn't wake up. I hear people snoring, I watch the TV with no sound, the TV and me are shaking with silent laughter. *Ano, 5E Torriano*

Making my bed

The untidiness is finally over. Cat hairs are hoovered up. The sheets have to be washed. The dread of cleaning it again. I'm not the dry cleaners! Although my mum thinks I am. I actually do it this time. Well, kind of... *Sumner 5E Torriano*

Football

Kicking away with your mates. Doing tricks with a black and white pattern Smooth air filling a bubble of skill. *Niyaz 5E Torriano*

Where did the past go?

Where did my past go? All the things I've done. An experience that has lots of mysteries, the memories I have of yesterday. *Tyler 5E Torriano*

The world is

The world is, a feeling of guilt. The world is, the future of secrets. The world is, where you find echoes. The world is, a map to your own dimension. The world is, Heaven. *Louie 5E Torriano*

5MP Torriano

I have no idea what's going on!

Thinking into black, infinite space. The meaning we want to find out I need clever connections and cunning clues, never knowing, how or what. Like the pieces of a puzzle not yet solved. As I find my way out there is no doubt about the confusion and questions around me. The meaning and differences we don't always understand. *Claudia 5MP Torriano*

My brother's head

Hundreds of spiky little bristles, each one takes you on an adventure. Shiny shimmering shortcuts waiting to be found. As scratchy as dry grass down your top, something that sticks with you in the back of your mind. *Mia 5MP Torriano*

When is the world going to learn?

I see smog and pollution. Is there ever a month where peace and quiet happens? Probably it's our fate or destiny... Hurting the Earth like there is no tomorrow. Like the thick grey air is hunting us... Help is something we need, something we all need. *Rinaz 5MP Torriano*

I had a bath

The warm, bubbling humid tub. Smelling like perfect potatoes and red roses. Fiddling with the aggressive temperature whilst bubbles peep in the floaty foam! Boiling like a cauldron, breathing me in. Stepping in, forgetting my worries. Calmly lying down, feeling the inevitable. Thinking to myself this is the life! Being taken into my imagination. Keeping me alive without knowing. What, where, who in the world am I? *Elias 5MP Torriano*

Fluffy lion teddy

A friend from long ago. Roaring like he's angry. But he never is, he's a loud and lovely pal. *Megan 5MP Torriano*

Waking up to my mum

The most beautiful face ever, as bright as the sun. She is so caring, I love her. Her smiles are the best. *Louie 5MP Torriano*

Snails can't eat garlic

They would hate French restaurants. Evil employees cruelly cackling at their deadly despair. Hunting them, day in, day out. Saddened souls running like there is no tomorrow. Slimy bodies slipping away slowly. The stuff of nightmares appearing every time. Calming to some, but may make others jump! Wait! What's on my plate? *Martha 5MP Torriano*

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Do they have a reason? Do they think they're cool? Walking into the centre of a joke! Where are they trying to go? Trying to go down the long lasting road. When do they have an off day? Is it when they go to the shops! *Abdi 5MP Torriano*

Cutting a sausage

The smiling waitress handing me a plate, the moment when steam escapes. Parents frowning at their wallets. Is this the meaning of life? Slicing through the soft greasy surface. Peering into its inner beauty. Listening to the silky voices saying, 'Eat me, eat me'. Is this the meaning of life? Wait, this is a potato! Sam 5MP Torriano

The gravity of the moon

Neil Armstrong on the moon. In his shiny suit. Making footprints on the dusty sphere. Drinking water bubbles. Eating space food. Jumping and hopping, having fun. Weighing nothing, but still falling down! *Maria 5MP Torriano*

Singing

It gives joy to me. Brings the light out in everyone. I sing in the shower! *Oscar 5MP Torriano*

A wall

A hard brick, strong surface. I kick my ball against it. I use my wall for support, until it is a time when there is no light. *Daniel 5MP Torriano*

Sleeping

Sitting in my bed thinking, getting very weary as I relax. My tiny toes twitching for a rest. Drifting off to a lovely calming break. Like a sleepy sloth, curling up to doze. Dreaming, an act of soul movement. I am already sleeping, out of the duvet my hand is peeping. *Cornelius 5MP Torriano*

The world is

The world is A moving connection between mind and body. The world is The umbrella of the seasons. The world is The twinkling strings of thoughts. The inevitable change of our actions. The world is The saddening shelter of our feelings. *Dylan 5MP Torriano*

Sweet sleep dreams

A movie in your mind, taking you from one place to another. Making you want to live in it, coming between you and your identity, Shame there is no popcorn! *Rayann 5MP Torriano*

The world is

Cool, but too small to rule. Abstract, a place to think. Many miles to be discovered, but always in time for work! *Sasha 5MP Torriano*

The world is

The art we all like to do. The 'new' something that we buy. Torriano School, that we all know. The honesty, when you don't lie. Being young, when I was a little boy. The 'now', a place where you can't be late! *Anthony 5MP Torriano*

Dark lords of the dragon

I had a dream about dragons, It was about a dragon that ate rainbows and the dragon turned rainbow. which was awesome! But when I woke up it was all a dream, which I was upset about! *Tailiah 5MP Torriano*

Football training

Practicing lots of different skills. Perfecting passing and shooting. Then the 'Mason Mount' celebration! *Rayden 5MP Torriano*

The ocean has animals inside

Which die from greedy sharks.
Like lions that are hunting.
Make sure they don't devour you,
They're hunting right now!
Star fish remind me of glowing stars.
One of the most beautiful things ever.
Puffer fish are fat!
Aamira 5MP Torriano

My mum's head

Shaped as a beautiful crystal. Tumbling down the light green grass, whilst fighting with my brother Rolling faster than a chasing cheetah and I wonder, I wonder, I wonder, who is that lovely lady sitting in the meadows? *Ebla 5MP Torriano*

The world is

The world is, something you can't see but it can affect you and your feelings. The world is, making everything brighter and more shiny. The world is, you becoming more respectful to others. The world is, the many beautiful colours we paint with. The world is dangerous, but heroes can come to save you. *Kellyann 5MP Torriano*

Very fast

Speeding fun when you're ahead running past in a race, run, run, run ahead, ahead, never stop until you get into bed. *Ayub 5MP Torriano*

Waking up for dance

Getting ready for dance. Really excited, thinking about dancing. I dance with my friends. I dance like a butterfly. Dancing is beautiful. *Amelie 5MP Torriano*

Under my blanket

As stars fade away it is the best day in the world. The stars are running away, shall it be or not to be? *Abbass 5MP Torriano*

The appearance

There came a mini troll. A baby of a monster, a cute faced mischief maker! Flying free like a bird in the air. Like a wild creature and it drinks orange juice! *Deqo 5MP Torriano*

The moon is not made of cheese

I know something you don't! That big yellow roundness in the darkness Is not made of cheese, *Sylvan 5MP Torriano*

My bed cover

Makes me nice and warm. Makes me happy when I see it. Decorated with lots of things. That are different from long ago. A thing I see, that changes everyday. *Shayla-May 5MP Torriano*

5A Argyle

Where does time go?

Tick-tock the hands travel quick! Where does time go? Into everything in the world. Many minutes, seconds and hours. Like questions over and over, some people say into a lost last number. *Amina 5A Argyle*

My pillow

Most comfortable in the world, hidden in my bed, Waiting to be found. I sleep on it everyday and every night. A good plan for life. My pillow is, what you look for when you need it there. To have under my head, always the start of my day! *Tanisha 5A Argyle*

A teddy as big as me

Shimmering eyes staring at me. A mysterious furry wonderland. Pushes me over whenever I cuddle her. *Shamima 5A Argyle*

Going to my Grandma's house

Walking along with my mum. Holding her hand tightly. A soft smooth toy for stress relief! I always get splashed by muddy puddles, a surprising moment! After waiting and making a long journey. Arriving at a mysterious place, that's always good to arrive at. *Israa 5A Argyle*

My blanket

Long, soft, thick and warm. Every night giving me a lovely massage. Unlocking the unknown dimension. So nice on my bed. The joining together of two things. *Zekaria 5A Argyle*

My family

My family protect me every day, which makes me safe and warm and stops me from coming to any harm. They make meals for me every day, teaching me also how to make meals for them. A skill that I learn, meaning I will be able to cook for my own children in the future. My family protects me every day a thing I breathe in. *Mohamed M 5A Argyle*

Why is there a sky?

It holds the shining stars that bring the night light. If we didn't have them the world would not be as bright. A chance to welcome their twinkles. They make your best imagination come to life. Makes you feel like you're floating very high, Makes you feel like you can fly. *Hanifa 5A Argyle*

Making a magic feast

So many enchanted lovely dishes. That always make you feel better. On top there is sparkly fairy dust. A magical substance that also makes you better. I take a small bite. That makes me feel better at all times. *Mariam 5A Argyle*

My blanket on the floor

My blanket got up before me, A fluffy friend wanting to be picked up. A moment that makes us both happy. Fallen from my cozy bed. *Maeda 5A Argyle*

My Wardrobe

Full of clothes waiting to fall,something that none shall know.Making me fold them every second.Making me feel dizzy and unable to sleep.Full of clothes waiting to fall.How will I catch them all?*Alisha 5A Argyle*

Playing FIFA

This is a magical game, taking you across the sea to somewhere new. You can score with Mbappé, here money grows on trees! You can forget about where do all the missing socks go? My friends play with me, this is a magical game. *Abdul 5A Argyle*

The world is

The world is, letting go, when something is gone. The world is, being on the phone a lot. The world is, more than one. The world is, a home that could melt. The world is, a force stronger than everyone. *Latif 5A Argyle*

Why are there 24 hours?

Why are there 24 hours? Each one is like an unknown cave waiting to be discovered. 24 hours can be hard sometimes. A clever response, waiting to be discussed. A shorter day would perhaps help! *Bilal 5A Argyle*

Home

A place to be. A little bit of magic from the biscuit tin. A big belt of love. A miracle idea. Having a great time there. All the things we have to do, sweet biscuits inside of you. *Corina 5A Argyle*

Giant Robots

I am surrounded by giant robots, like an invasion from a distant far away galaxy. They make me pay attention, but luckily we are friends now. *Abdirahman 5A Argyle*

The bottom of my sister's bunk bed

A wooden sky above me, protecting me from a falling snoring sister! Never ending squares of blue, imprisoning me in the big soft duvet cloud. Pushing me down, down underground. The key to creating the unimagined world, into that cloud I go-Until I can barely take in my surroundings. Finding out about the don't knows, creating a journey, that I may never come back from. *Malachi 5A Argyle*

My friend Biscuit the cat

He's nowhere to be seen,
black and brown jumping around.
He's playful sometimes.
He's angry, watch out!
Once you get used to him
and he gets used to you,
he licks you, because he loves you.
He is so much fun to play with.
Once you are best friends,
he'll plays with you too. *Zayan 5A Argyle*

The Ceiling

A blank white wall, but above me. Giving me blank white dreams. Never ending, but always above. A time that we all live in. Protecting me from the next floor. Smooth like a pebble, With a light dangling down like an earring. A dramatic event that will take over us all. *Saudah 5A Argyle*

My world is

My imagination that just happened. My world is inspiration to live. with the people I love. My world is to be accepted, like the word yes! My world is sometimes somewhere. That's hard to reach. My world is the best I can make it. *Melanie 5A Argyle*

Getting out of bed

When you start to sleep. A not real but seems real time. Because you're pursued by your imagination. Like a glass you can see through, So, I go underneath my blanket and see the weirdest things. 'Who turned the light off'? *Suwayda 5A Argyle*

Where will tomorrow be

A secret for the future. A soft white shelter. Something unknown that we wonder about. What will happen then? A nice shiny thing to look for. A place we will all live. So, what will happen then? *Ibrahim 5A Argyle*

The world is

The world is to be used again and again. The world is the invisible air we all need. The world is an anger you can't control. The world is at times a kind uncle. The world is to be made safe and sure of. The world can be sad, crying tears that fall as rain. *Ayaan 5A Argyle*

5Q Argyle

Waking up early

The dark night has gone, hiding behind the burning sun. Far away in the distance coming back in the mysterious moonlight. Bringing little stars above me, That twinkle in the pitch black sky. Hidden in your mind Waiting for us to find. *Mahsa 5Q Argyle*

Reading Arabic

The letters look so cool, because they have so many curves. Memorising the meanings and messages. Understanding the Surah. Like poems that you memorise. Reading Arabic is fun, a happiness, That gets the better of you. *Inayat 5Q Argyle*

The world is

Colossal and overwhelming. Answers that everyone is waiting to hear. Bright colours that make everyone smile. Should be a safe place for you to be, that is slowly coming to you. A kindness from a friend. *Farhan 5Q Argyle*

Thinking of sleeping some more

Little beams of light appear. Mysterious shapes with lots of sizes. Waking up slowly, thinking thoughts that disappear. Like adverts that make you want to buy. Reflecting people in a world that doesn't stop. Jumping off a cliff back to sleep. *Khalid 5Q Argyle*

Falling off my scooter

Racing my brother, trying to win, going really fast. Suddenly I'm eating the grass! Kissing the ground and I lost! *Sojod 5Q Argyle*

The heater

Keeping coldness away from my home. A miniature volcano full of warmth in my bedroom. Making cold toes warm enough to sleep. *Yahya 5Q Argyle*

My little brother sleeping

Like a comic strip of life, I see a small boy. Super silent and sleepy. I remember everything that we did. That then went ancient. Like a comic strip of life, He is always drinking milk! *Rayyan 5Q Argyle*

My World is

Feeling tired and falling asleep on a train. Trying to see inside what you can't see. My sister texting me 'where are you?' Technology of the future. Remembering the Easter egg hunt. Large and small, expressing beauty. I made a chocolate cake, fast paced to the end! *Alexandra 5Q Argyle*

Memories are

Of great value and will help you. Sometimes bad and make no sense. Get thought of again and again. Hidden in your mind waiting to be rediscovered. Memories are something that can change your feelings in a moment. *Sairah 5Q Argyle*

The deep sleep

Lost in a dream world, where you can create yourself. You see magical stuff in your bed. A different type of language, until you are woken up. *Nadia 5Q Argyle*

Playing on my bike

Riding with my friends. Driving my bike really fast, the me that is me, Suddenly something exciting begins. Pictures, images and now I am a bike racer. *Sakaria 5Q Argyle*

My cousin's house

I knock on the door, it creaks and is almost torn open! My crazy cousin smiling at me hysterically, with a huge grin. Here, there is a snake and lots of technology. A mysterious world full of undiscovered surprises. Then his little brothers come, crawling out like spiders. *Izhan 5Q Argyle*

The cake has just been made

Lovely, spongy creamy and hot. Ready to be eaten. Made with care and wonder. A square circle spinning In the solar system of our kitchen. With wonderous icing and sprinkles on top. Waiting to warm me up from the inside against the cold that's outside. *Maddie 5Q Argyle*

You don't have to be forced to be a friend

True friendship cannot be broken. A colourful shield to protect you from negative emotion. Being close to someone you know. A masterpiece of creativity, the best emotion you can feel. Built on the past, from the days before now. No one can make you. *Sumaiyah 5Q Argyle*

My world is

Seeing the Sun shining into my room. Watching my sister eat her sandwich for breakfast. Having to fix my robot. Knowing my sister doesn't really like pink The sky isn't really blue, it just looks it. Fixing my sister's yoyo. Catching my sister eating sweets, from my secret stash drawer! *Samia 5Q Argyle*

Awakened by the alarm

Under the pillows is a never ending time of fun, but watch out for the alarm! Or you will be awakened again. If you do not have a heater do not fear, do not worry, because the bed will restore the heat back to your soul. When you have got your energy and your heat back, you will be ready to have another fun and exciting day! *Karim 5Q Argyle*

The sun's glow

Scorching like a hot desert, an abandoned, unknown territory. Both nowhere and everywhere. A mysterious colour floating in the atmosphere. The sun isn't only yellow. Hitting you with solar rays. An antique timeline that will never rust. A feeling deep inside the soul. *Zakir 5Q Argyle*

What's for lunch?

Lunch is so good to eat, it's better than crying alone in the rain. Lunch is amazing to eat! Tasting something you've never tasted before. I can eat it all day long, But usually, just at lunchtimes! *Safa 5Q Argyle*

How big is the universe

You can't see what's coming. For all you know everything could be happening backwards! Is this the end? Ha-ha, I fooled you. *Ayaan 5Q Argyle*

Washing my hands

Constantly rubbing my skin together, watching the water going down the plug-hole. Hot water dancing over my fingers. Like a crowd of dancers at a disco party splashing in time to the falling droplets. Soon it will be time, to do it all over again. *Huda 5Q Argyle*

The Moon

The moon is like a mysterious cookie that lives in space. The moon is like A mysterious golden ring that orbits the night. The moon is like a round banana That lives in the Milky Way. *Umarah 5Q Argyle*

Taking a shower

The dripping water running down. The sun shining in from space. Steaming up the mirror, misting it up. A beautiful piece of artwork. Draw a smiley face. *Daisha 5Q Argyle*

I got a new puppy

A brand new furry face. An excited face staring at me, hopefully for the rest of my life. My lovely soft new BFF guides me through light. Giving love and huggles along the way. My gorgeous new soul mate, a bright light that guides me through life. *Ayla 5Q Argyle*