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The Nation's Favourite Children's Poems

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off

Media type:

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Anyone who reads poems need only read the contents list of BBC's **The Nation's Favourite Children's Poems**. It's that fresh. With reading time saved, the reader can speculate - the book doesn't say - which nation is being referred to. The Welsh? the Scottish? the English? the British? No, The nation - there's one, for heaven's sake. The reader might ask - it doesn't say - how the poems were chosen. They might wonder - it doesn't say - what hand if any children if any had in deciding which were their favourites. What the contents list itself reveals, though, is that the selection banally reproduces the over-established tastes of those - amongst them many teachers, sadly - who don't read much poetry. Three establishment Caribbean poems, nothing in any English dialect except standard ['the' standard]; nothing in translation from India, Pakistan, China or anywhere. The collection's psychic centre seems, in fact, to be somewhere near Slough. A book so formulaically pointless that it might well become one of the Nation's Favourite Nation's Favourite Books, excerpts from which could be suitably screened between the Nation's Favourite Antiques Roadshow and the Nation's Favourite Hymns of Praise. Highly recommended for the Nation's Favourite Literacy Hour.

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