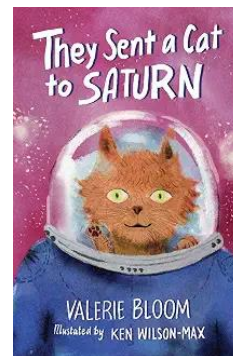


The Children's Bookshow



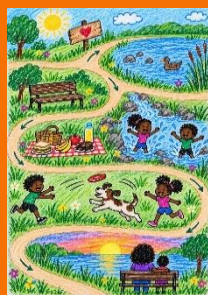
Embark on a creative adventure with *They Sent a Cat to Saturn*, written by Valerie Bloom and illustrated by Ken Wilson-Max. The following activities will help you imagine, create, and explore the different poems. We'd love to see what you come up with, so don't forget to share your work with us!

Explore



- *Misunderstood*: Idioms are phrases which don't actually mean what the individual words say. For example, something easy can be described as 'a piece of cake'. Find out what the idioms in this poem mean, and listen out for others – you'll be surprised how many we use every day.
- *I Talk to Animals*: What if animals could talk? What would they say? Take or download some photos of different animals and have fun adding speech bubbles as you imagine what they might be saying.
- *Capitals, Capitals*: Make an A-Z book of capital cities, adding some illustrations of famous landmarks and interesting facts about each city.

Draw



- Choose your favourite poem from the collection and illustrate it in the style of Ken Wilson-Max.
- *This is the Path*: Draw the path described in the poem as a story map, adding all the things the character sees and does along the way.
- *Brave New Words*: Create an illustrated dictionary for the words in this poem. Drawing and defining the words will help you remember their meanings and give you some impressive new vocabulary to use in your own writing and conversations.

Create



- *They Sent a Cat to Saturn*: Make a model of the spaceship, 'Hooray'. Use items from your recycling box: boxes, cardboard tubes, plastic pots, tubs.
- Use *Taking a Poem from Page to Stage* to help you create an impressive performance of a favourite poem.
- *Living Lantern*: Upcycle some used glass jars. Thoroughly wash and dry the empty jar, wind some fine wire battery-powered fairy lights inside, replace the lid and turn upside down. You could decorate the outside of the jar with paint pens, tissue paper or glitter.

Write

"Why not say respectful, courteous, polite,
Marvelous, splendid, fantastic, bright,
Likeable, pleasant, charming, fine,
Lovely, warm, brilliant, divine,
Pleasing, helpful, thoughtful, glamorous,
Gorgeous, gentle, thoughtful, fabulous,
Cute, handsome, attractive, refined,
Stylish, pretty, considerate, kind,
Vivacious, gracious, highly auspicious,
Mouthwatering, tasty, simply delicious,
Scrumptious, flavoursome, sugary, sweet
Enjoyable, pleasurable, tidy and neat.

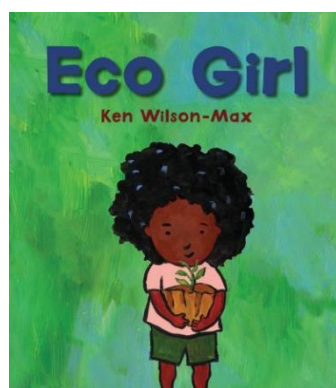
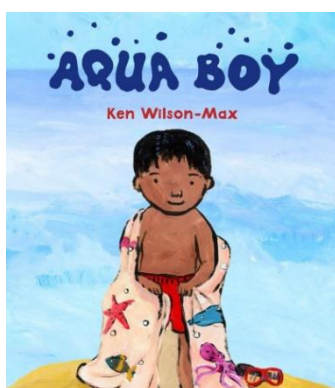
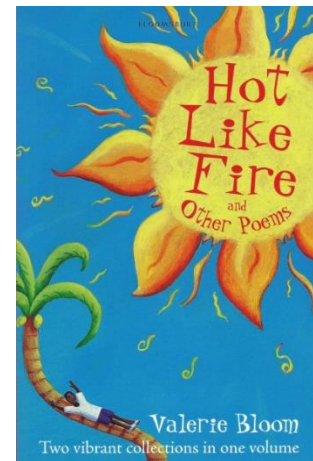
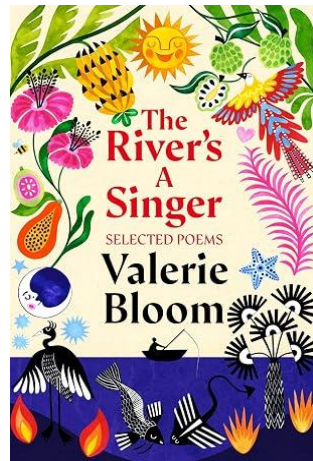
So many words to use besides
A very boring word like nice."

That's what my teacher said.

- Give your writing a glow-up and write your own *Substitution* poem. Pick a word like *good*, *nice*, or *went*. Use a thesaurus to find better words, then look for those words in the thesaurus until you have a word bank to create a brilliant *Substitution* poem packed with powerful vocabulary.
- Valerie Bloom writes poems in Jamaican Patois, a language spoken in Jamaica which is a mix of English and West African Languages. Write a poem celebrating the language used where you live. Include favourite sayings, local words or phrases that make your voice unique.
- Write your own Haikus or Pensées using the sequences as guides.

Further Activities to Try...

1. Design a new cover for the book by choosing a different poem for inspiration.
2. Watch Val perform some of her poems online at [The Children's Bookshow - YouTube](#).
3. Discover more about Valerie Bloom and Ken Wilson Max on our website: [The Children's Bookshow | Valerie Bloom](#); [The Children's Bookshow | Ken Wilson-Max](#).
4. Val was born in Jamaica and Caribbean life and culture have influenced many of her poems. Find out more about Jamaica by visiting [The Kids World Travel Guide](#) online.
5. Visit www.thechildrensbookshow.com/artists to explore our other featured authors and illustrators, and discover many more recommended reads.



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