



Valerie Bloom was born in Jamaica and came to England in 1979. She is the author of numerous poetry collections for children and adults, as well as picture books and novels for young readers. Her poems in English and in Jamaican Patois have appeared in over 500 anthologies.

Valerie has performed her poetry all over the world, and works tirelessly in schools, giving performances and workshops. Her many television and radio appearances include presenting poetry programmes on BBC Radio 4, Radio 3 and the CBeebies TV and radio channels.

Valerie's awards include the Voice Community Award for Literature, the Nestlé Smarties Prize (Bronze Award), three CLPE poetry awards, an Honorary Masters Degree from her alma mater the University of Kent at Canterbury, and an MBE for services to poetry.

"She is a mighty performer of her poems on stage, but she is first and foremost a writer, and her poems on the page are a tribute to her skill." – Roger McGough

"With a sharp sense of the ironical, a penchant for farcical situations, her mastery of form and language, her skilful character sketches, Valerie Bloom is able to entertain us with her poetry, offering us insights into the human condition." – Linton Kwesi Johnson

"Valerie Bloom is a fine, fine poet and a wonderful storyteller." – Michael Morpurgo

"Valerie Bloom has that magic touch which ... can make the strange familiar and the familiar strange." – John Mole in the Times Educational Supplement

For more information, including event bookings, visit Valerie Bloom's website at www.valeriebloom.co.uk.

To watch videos of Valerie Bloom performing her work, visit the BBC website at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/events/efvhzc> and <https://www.bbc.com/education/clips/zfw4d2p>.

Also CLPE's Poetryline at <https://www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poets/bloom-valerie>.

To hear recordings of Valerie reading her poems, visit the Poetry Archive website: <https://www.poetryarchive.org/poet/valerie-bloom>.

To read a critical perspective on Valerie's work, visit the British Council website: <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/valerie-bloom>.

BOOKS BY VALERIE BLOOM

CHILDREN'S POETRY

- ❖ Untitled poetry collection, due in February 2021 (Otter-Barry Books)
- ❖ *Mighty Mountains, Swirling Seas*, poems by Valerie Bloom illustrated by Alessandra Cimadoribus (HarperCollins, Big Cat Poetry, 2015)
- ❖ *Jaws and Claws and Things with Wings*, poems by Valerie Bloom illustrated by Matt Robertson (HarperCollins, Big Cat Poetry, 2013)
- ❖ *Hot Like Fire*, poems by Valerie Bloom; new bind-up edition with *The World Is Sweet* (Bloomsbury, 2009)
- ❖ *A Twist in the Tale*, surprising poems chosen by Valerie Bloom (Macmillan Children's Books, 2005)
- ❖ *One River, Many Creeks*: poems from all around the world, chosen by Valerie Bloom (Macmillan Children's Books, 2003); winner of a CLPE Poetry Award
- ❖ *Whoop an' Shout*, poems by Valerie Bloom (Macmillan Children's Books, 2003) – A Poetry Book Society Choice; winner of a CLPE Poetry Award

- ❖ *Hot Like Fire*, poems by Valerie Bloom (Bloomsbury, 2002) – A Poetry Book Society Choice; winner of a CLPE Poetry Award
- ❖ *On a Camel to the Moon* and other poems about journeys, chosen by Valerie Bloom (Ginn & Company / Belitha Press, 2001)
- ❖ *The World Is Sweet*, poems by Valerie Bloom (Bloomsbury, 2000)
- ❖ *Let Me Touch the Sky: selected Poems for Children* by Valerie Bloom (Macmillan Children's Books, 2000; Caboodle Books, 2008, with new illustrations by Ashley Bloom) – A Poetry Book Society Choice
- ❖ *Duppy Jamboree and other Jamaican Poems* by Valerie Bloom (Cambridge University Press, 1991)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

- ❖ *New Baby* (Macmillan Children's Books, 2000)
- ❖ *Ackee, Breadfruit, Callaloo: An Edible Alphabet* (Bogle l'Ouverture / Macmillan Caribbean, 1999)
- ❖ *Fruits* (Macmillan Children's Books, 1997, UK; Henry Holt & Co, USA) – Winner of The Nestlé Smarties Prize Bronze Award; shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal; The Americas Award for Children's & Young Adult Literature – Honorable Mention (USA)

NOVELS FOR CHILDREN

- ❖ *The Tribe* (Macmillan Children's Books, 2008)
- ❖ *Surprising Joy* (Macmillan Children's Books, 2003) – Shortlisted for the Branford Boase Award

POETRY FOR ADULTS

- ❖ *A Soh Life Goh* (Bogle l'Ouverture Press, 2008)
- ❖ *Touch Mi! Tell Mi!* (Bogle l'Ouverture Press, 1983)