



## GROOVY FISH AND OTHER POEMS

Author of the award-winning *Letterbox Cat*, Paula Green's bright new poems have grown out of titles collected from her fans: the children who follow her online at Poetry Box and curl up inside the covers of her books. These poems dash and dart, whisper and purr ... tell of tap-dancing fish, cheese-spaghetti dogs, annoying itches, thunder monkeys and midnight moons. In Paula's world skies are pumpkins, lions live in kennels and her own wild drawings dance across the page.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Paula Green** has published fifteen books, including five for children, edited *A Treasury of NZ Poems for Children* and runs the blog NZ Poetry Box. *The Letterbox Cat and Other Poems* won Children's Choice at the New Zealand Book Awards in 2015. In 2017 she received The Prime Minister's Award for Poetry and was made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for Services to Poetry and Literature.

Paula lives on Auckland's West Coast with her family, two cats and a springer spaniel. She loves reading, running, swimming, blogging, cooking and writing secret things.

Visit Paula's blog at [nzpoetrybox.wordpress.com](http://nzpoetrybox.wordpress.com)

## PAULA SAYS ...

This book was a long time in the making – and I had such fun doing the drawings and the painting for the cover. Writing poems when someone else gives you the titles is a very cool thing to do because it takes your imagination in a ZILLION new directions. Some titles were so challenging. I never knew where I would end up!

## YOUR TURN

Try writing a poem using one of the titles from *Groovy Fish and other poems*. Before you start writing, make a list of words that jump into your mind as you look at the title – where will they carry you?

- Listen to your poem when you have finished it
- Try three different starts then pick your favourite
- Try three different endings then pick your favourite
- Try setting the poem out in 2 different ways
- Do a drawing to go with it, if you are in the mood

This can also be done as a class activity – write a poem title on the whiteboard or a large piece of paper (to keep) and ask for lines for the poem one by one. If the children are stuck, suggest they could think of things such as: ‘doing’ words, smells, ‘crunchy’ words that sound good, or what the person/animal/creature might be eating.

## POEM TITLES

The tree house	Colours change	Lollipops and chicken pox
Weird weather	What goes on under the bed	The six rainbow rabbits
Swip swap day	The dog climbed up the curtain	The glass door
The soccer dog	The clock shop	The highway rat
Lick lick riff	The giant turnip	Strawberry piano
Groovy fish	Banana Land	More dancing fish
The tap-dancing fish	Pumpkin moon	Things that sing
Sky high	The secret box	Tea with Aunty Lee
In the air	Washing	How will we get there?
The ball of custard	Fishing	Posters aren't meant to go in toasters
An annoying itch	Swimming with an alien	The biscuit thief
Thunder monkey	Zip zap zang	The little fish
Howling wolf	The watermelon	Midnight
Blow wind blow	Bird song	
The shabby dinosaur	The seven seagulls	
Eat your words		

