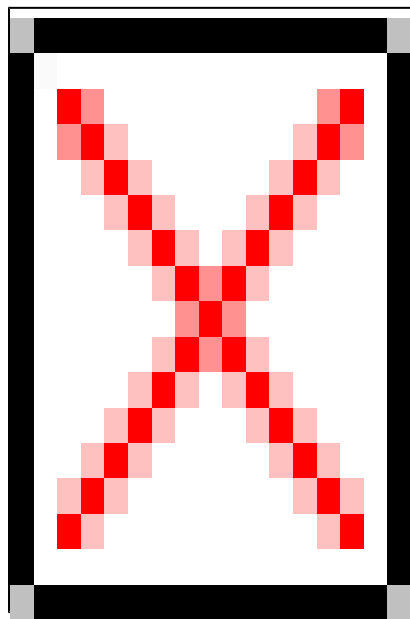




STEVEN CAMDEN WINS CLiPPA 2019



Spoken word artist Steven Camden, aka Polarbear, has been announced as the winner of the **CLiPPA (Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award)**. His debut collection, **Everything All At Once**, published by Macmillan Children's Books, was unanimously chosen as the winner by this year's panel of judges.

Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me by veteran US poet Eloise Greenfield (Tiny Owl Publishing), illustrated by Ehsan Abdollahi, was highly commended by the judges.

A.F. Harrold, Chair of Judges for **CLiPPA 2019** said of **Everything All At Once**: "Steven's collection has so many things to recommend it, not only the mastery of our living written/spoken language but also an intense insight into the heart of a secondary school - the nuances and faceslaps of being that age, of tiptoeing or prat-falling through that environment. The heartaches and the anxieties, the laughs, the embarrassments and the low slants of daylight. It's as much a guidebook to navigating those tricky waters as it is a record of what he's seen." He urged that a copy of **Everything All At Once** be given to every kid about to go up to secondary school.

Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive at [CLPE](#) [1] said: "Through our research and work with schools at CLPE, we regularly see the transformative power of poetry on children's engagement with reading and writing. Poetry allows children to see things from the perspective of others, to form opinions and be reflective, to understand how language is used for effect and to show them that they too can have a voice, through writing poetry of their own. **CLiPPA** champions children's poetry because we believe it is absolutely fundamental to their literacy development and we want children to have access to the best poetry from the earliest age."

Camden received his trophy and a cheque for £1000 on The Lyttleton Stage at the National Theatre, in front of a 900-strong audience of school children who had participated in the award's shadowing scheme.

The shortlisted poets gave live or filmed performances but the show was stolen by children from five winning shadowing schools. Children from Whitehill Primary School performed a poem from Philip Gross's book; three students from Petts Hill Primary brought Kwame Alexander's poetry to life; a young girl from Moorlands Primary School took centre stage to perform a poem from *Everything All At Once*; Lea Forest Primary Academy interpreted a poem from Rachel Rooney's collection; and a class of children from St Mary's Primary Catholic School clicked their fingers to the

rhythm of Eloise Greenfield's verse. Each performance was highly impressive.

To ensure the celebration of poetry continues all year round the ceremony culminated in the announcement of a new national poetry reading and writing challenge for children. #MyNPDpoem marks the 25th Anniversary of [National Poetry Day](#) [2] which this year will be celebrated on Thursday 3rd October.

The **CLiPPA** award is supported by the **Siobhan Dowd Trust** and the **Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society**.

Source URL (retrieved on Oct '19): <http://w.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/steven-camden-wins-clippa-2019>

Links:

[1] <https://clpe.org.uk/>

[2] <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/education/mynpdpoem/>