



# HOME FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

A selection of festive poems from  
The Reader at Calderstones' first poetry advent calendar  
- to be read aloud wherever they're needed this winter.



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#SharedReading

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 The  
Reader

# ***There Is A Budding Morrow In Midnight***

**by Christina Rossetti**

Wintry boughs against a wintry sky;  
Yet the sky is partly blue  
And the clouds are partly bright:--  
Who can tell but sap is mounting high  
Out of sight,  
Ready to burst through?

Winter is the mother-nurse of Spring,  
Lovely for her daughter's sake,  
Not unlovely for her own :  
For a future buds in everything;  
Grown, or blown,  
Or about to break.



# ***Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind***

**by William Shakespeare**

Blow, blow, thou winter wind  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude;  
Thy tooth is not so keen,  
Because thou art not seen,  
Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:  
Most freindship if feigning, most loving mere folly:  
Then heigh-ho, the holly!  
This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,  
That does not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot:  
Though thou the waters warp,  
Thy sting is not so sharp  
As a friend remembered not.

Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:  
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:  
Then heigh-ho, the holly!  
This life is most jolly.



# ***The Frozen Heart***

**by Robert Herrick**

I freeze, I freeze, and nothing dwells  
In me but snow and icicles.  
For pity's sake, give your advice,  
To melt this snow and thaw this ice.  
I'll drink down flames; but if so be  
Nothing but love can supple me,  
I'll rather keep this frost and snow  
Than to be thaw'd or heated so.



# ***Love and Friendship***

**by Emily Brontë**

Love is like the wild rose-briar,  
Friendship like the holly-tree—  
The holly is dark when the rose-briar blooms  
But which will bloom most constantly?

The wild rose-briar is sweet in spring,  
Its summer blossoms scent the air;  
Yet wait till winter comes again  
And who will call the wild-briar fair?

Then scorn the silly rose-wreath now  
And deck thee with the holly's sheen,  
That when December blights thy brow  
He still may leave thy garland green.



# *Winter*

by **William Shakespeare**

When icicles hang by the wall  
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail  
And Tom bears logs into the hall,  
And milk comes frozen home in pail,  
When Blood is nipped and ways be foul,  
Then nightly sings the staring owl,  
Tu-who;  
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,  
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,  
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,  
And birds sit brooding in the snow,  
And Marian's nose looks red and raw  
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,  
Then nightly sings the staring owl,  
Tu-who;  
Tu-whit, tu-who: a merry note,  
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.



# ***My Star***

**by William Browning**

All that I know  
Of a certain star,  
Is, it can throw  
(Like the angled spar)  
Now a dart of red,  
Now a dart of blue,  
Till my friends have said  
They would fain see, too,  
My star that dartles the red and the blue!

Then it stops like a bird; like a flower, hangs furled:  
They must solace themselves with the Saturn above it.  
What matter to me if their star is a world?  
Mine has opened its soul to me; therefore I love it.



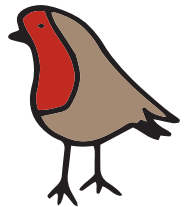


# Could someone you know be part of The Reader's story in 2020?

The Reader would not be where it is today without a community of committed volunteers and readers – we thank one and all for joining the Reading Revolution!

From leading Shared Reading groups week in, week out, to welcoming visitors to The Reader at Calderstones or sharing the incredible story of the ancient Calder Stones, people are the power here.

See our volunteering opportunities below and, for groups to join across the UK, visit [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk) – do share with anyone who 'needs something different' in 2020. Apply online to be part of it.



**Birmingham:** leaders for groups in community spaces.

**Bristol:** readers for groups in community spaces.

**Cheshire:** leaders and readers for one-to-one reading with an older person; leaders for groups in community spaces in Cheshire East.

**Greater Manchester:** leaders for groups for people recovering from addiction in Salford and Trafford.

**Leicestershire:** leaders for groups in community spaces.

**London:** leaders for groups in community spaces with older people in Croydon; leaders for groups in community spaces with older people in Hackney; readers for groups in community spaces in Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, and Ealing; leaders for groups in community spaces in Tower Hamlets.

**Merseyside:** leaders for one-to-one reading with a looked-after-child in Anfield, Bootle and Everton; weekend welcome, shop and heritage volunteers needed for The Reader's headquarters in Calderstones Park; leaders for groups in community spaces in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington; leaders for one-to-one reading with a looked-after-child and for groups in community spaces in Wirral.

**North Wales:** leaders for groups in community spaces in Anglesey Conwy and Gwynedd.

**Somerset:** leaders for groups for people living with dementia and their carers.