

A yellow line art illustration on a black background. It features a child's head in profile, looking upwards, with a large, stylized letter 'P' integrated into the design. A vine-like line with small leaves and a heart shape winds around the 'P' and the child's head. The word 'Poems' is written in a large, white, serif font, with the 'P' being the first letter.

Poems

from Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Dialysis Unit,
from workshops led by poet Cherry Smyth.

The Friends of GOSH generously donated funds to the GO Create! Great Ormond Street Arts and Humanities Programme, to carry out a variety of creative projects over three years. The first project was a Poet in Residence in the renal unit, where poet Cherry Smyth became the hospital's first poet in residence.

This booklet is a collection of the poems written by those who took part in the project.



This project was kindly illustrated and designed by Kirsty Barton, graphic designer at LexisNexis® Butterworths as part of their RE Cares initiative.



My name is Ali.

I was born in August.

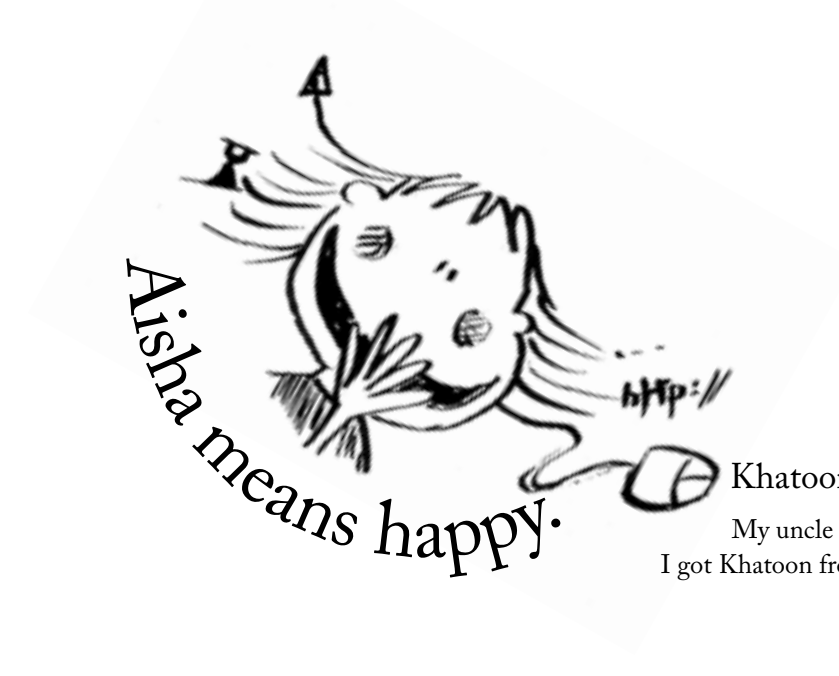
My nickname is Al.

I'd like to be called

The Don. BIGGIE.

My A.K.A. name is

Ali means excellent or noble.	✓				
I am a good boy.	✓				
I am intelligent.	✓				
I am brave.	✓				
I am a computer addict.	✓				
I am kind.	✓				
I am a genius.	✓				



Khatoon means lady.

My uncle named me Aisha.
I got Khatoon from my Grandma,
my Mum's Mum.

I am cheeky,

I am 15 and

I am short for my age.

I'm good at using the Internet.

Aisha.
Happy Lady

My parents named me.

I'm not named after anyone.

I like the name Janet but I only use it in the hospital.

It means God's gift of grace.

I have a Nigerian name at home.

I am 17 years old.

I am currently doing my A levels.

I like sports and swimming.

I am super smart.

I have long hands.



My surname comes from Ireland.

My grandparents gave me my name.

My first name is French.

Collette means necklace or victorious.

It comes from Nicolette.

I am blonde with freckles.

I am not nasty, I am kind.

I am 14 years old.



Collette

My name was going to be Lily
but my Mum changed it to Hannah.
My name is a pa-lin-drome. → Hannah.hannaH
It's Hebrew and it means favoured by God or gracious.

I don't like it.

I'm also called Banana
Banana, Spanna, Hanban, Han,
Spanna, Hanban, Han,
Hanban, Han, Pink Princess.

I am short.

I am annoying.

I'm a McDonald's addict.

I'm always moaning.

If I could I'd live in a pink world or be a cheetah living somewhere hot.



The Unlucky Couple

There was a moon

Shaped like a balloon

That loved the sun

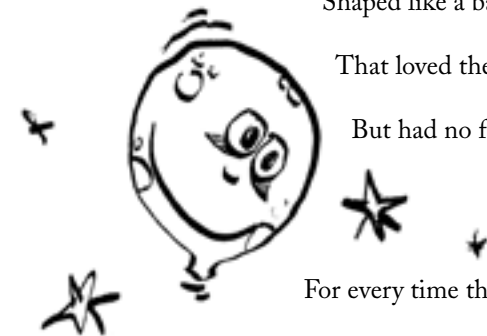
But had no fun.

For every time the moon

Was high in the sky

The sun went down

And cried bye-bye.



Ali



A Stormy Relationship

Collette

Lightning Boy liked Thunder Girl

He flashed across the sky

He could hear Thunder Girl clapping

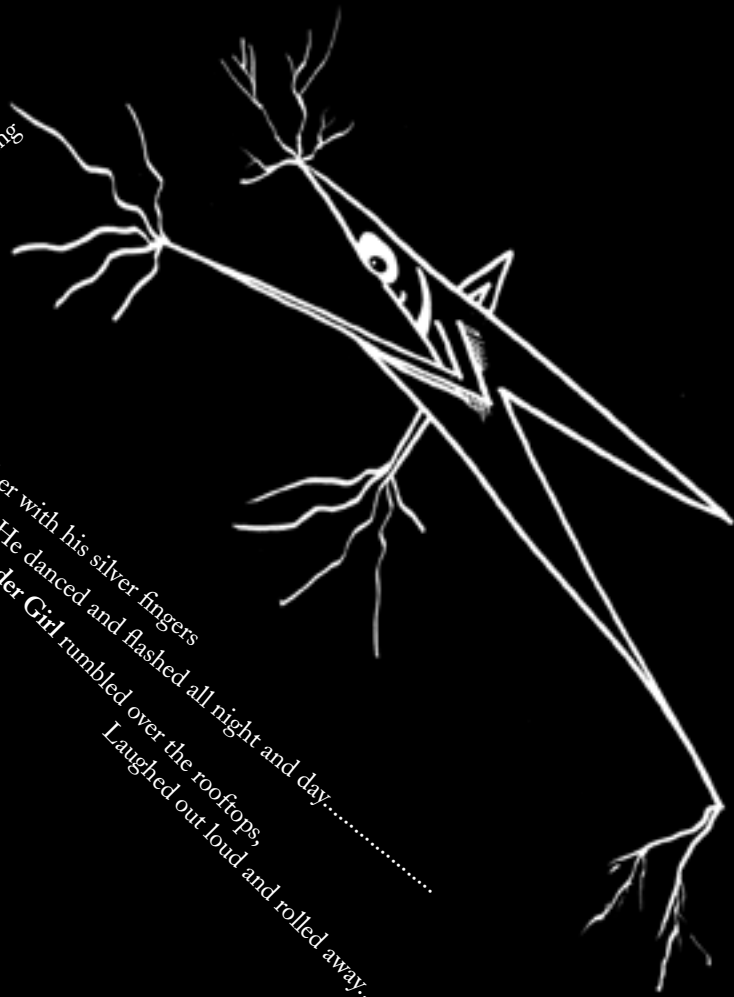
Behind the clouds so high.

He tried to reach her

with his silver fingers

He danced and flashed all night and day.....

But Thunder Girl rumbled over the rooftops,
Laughed out loud and rolled away.....



My Mum and a Candle

My Mum makes me glow like a candle.
She helps me to see like a candle.
The mess she helps me to untangle.
This life she helps me to handle.

Aisha

Chalk&Cheese

Master Loud loved Miss Silent
but he couldn't hear what she was saying.

He thought he would begin to get violent,
so he was prayin, prayin, prayin.

'It's OK, there's no need to shout,'
said Miss Silent to Master Loud.

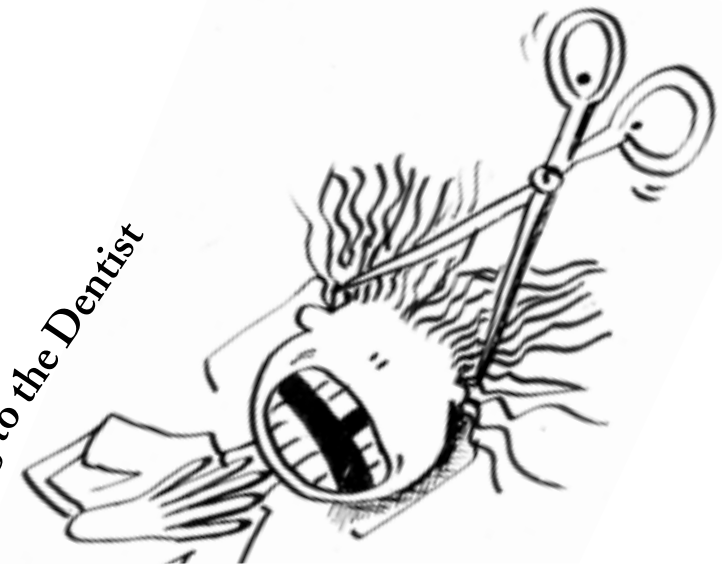
To which he replied,
'Speak up, my dear,
why do you look
so full of fear?'

Miss Silent began to stare into space,
Master Loud could only stare at her face.



Hannah

Going to the Dentist



Dentists are like scissors,
deceptive to the eye,
Dentists are like scissors,
Sharp,
pointed
and
sly.

They make you calm
with a voice so smooth,
and suddenly you find
yourself missing a tooth!

Janet

All About Football 1

Don't need no shopping mall
Going to be a rapper tall.
Don't need no girls to call
Rather watch my football.

Man U wipe out the rest
Cos we once had George Best.
We got the Red Devil vests
We score goals at your request.

If you ask me what I think,
I'd have to say Liverpool stink.
They must be sadly jinxed
As down the league table they sink.

Poor Peter Crouch
Should learn to slouch
He's tall for no reason
He'll be out next season.

Ali
AND Shaun



Skate Boarding

The skateboard s l i d e s
While he glides
He says hide
While I r i d e .

I remember them days
When my eyes were glazed
When I had erased
everything
and I wasn't fazed.

Ali

MC Shaun
and Ali
Down
the gym

I'm working on my 6-pack
Not giving any slack.
If you mess with me,
I'll put you in a sack.

Doing loads of reps
To build up my triceps,
Can see the edge of my pecs
When I'm riding in my Lex.

Running on the treadmill,
Eating up my wholemeal
Faster than a windmill
Don't wanna stand still.

Shaun and Ali



THE Door. Aisha

Go and open the door,
maybe outside there's a great dream,
a palace or a **dragon**,
maybe a dream car.

Go and open the door,
perhaps outside there's a scary castle
or a dangerous **bulldog**
rummaging for bones.

Go and open the door,
maybe you'll see an old **friend** or
relative or maybe a picture of this
old friend or relative.



Go and open the door,
and find out what's in store...

To me a nurse is like a car,

Constantly on the move,

Ever busy, ever smiling

and always stopping for fuel,

(Or in this case, cups of tea),

And like a car, she carries me

Until my wound is healed.

To me a nurse is like a car

And one day soon, I think you'll see,

She'll probably need a MOT.



Janet

The football says: chase me

The pitch says: run!

Wayne Rooney scores

We all watch the fun.

The ref shouts: foul

Thierry says: penalty kick.

The crowd goes crazy

Their team gets licked.

When my team wins

I get butterflies.

I shout and scream

As if I've won a prize.

But when Man U loses

I feel small and bad.

Like a balloon with no air

My face is miserable and sad.

Collette





Some people like to hang out on the street
 Smoking and drinking and falling over,
 But being with my mates Kayleigh and Shell
 We have a good time with no hangover.
 My friends make Kent bearable
 There's nothing in Bredgar, not even a shop.
 Our entertainment's the trampoline,
 Where we learn the tricks of flip and flop.

Hannah

On Dialysis

Without kidneys, your diet is full of no –
 no spuds, no Coke, no grapes, no cheese.
 You can't process phosphates or potassium,
 the way most people do when they make pee.

Tubes in place, a four-hour countdown,
 LED flickers as the minutes start,
 blood flows through an electric wheel,
 pulsing the beat of a human heart.

Like magic, it balances salt and water,
 like a washing machine, it eats up stains,
 returning our blood cleaner and stronger,
 new life from its artificial veins.

Every other day, we're due at the ward,
 to make life easy as a normal child,
 who loves rap and sports, trampolines and dogs,
 who dreams of celebrity and designer style.

Six thousand of us are waiting for transplants.
 Finding a match is sometimes hard.
 Most people have two, where one can do,
 your gift lies in getting a donor card.

Cherry Smyth

Each year, almost 3,000 people in the UK benefit from an organ transplant. However, at the same time, more than 8,000 people need an organ transplant to save or dramatically improve their lives – and around 400 people die every year before a suitable donated organ becomes available.

The NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) is literally a lifesaver. A confidential, computerised database, it carries the names of almost 13 million people who have said they want to leave a legacy of life by donating their organs to help others after their death.

You can find out more about organ donation by calling the NHS Organ Donor Line on 0845 60 60 400 or visiting UK Transplant's website at www.uktransplant.org.uk

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I'm a
monkey

My name is George

I'm King of the Forest

I boss the other monkeys around

I can jump around the forest anytime.



GoCreate!