



[Home](#) > Teaching the Parrot

Teaching the Parrot

Books Reviewed:

[Teaching the Parrot](#) [1]

Issue:

[108](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Clive Barnes](#) [3]

~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

Edwards is a prolific writer of light verse who knows how to pitch a poem for children. His subjects and treatments may sometimes be borrowed; but he is versatile, rhythmic and provocative. In this collection, he cheerfully makes use of sources as varied as playground rhymes, fairy tales, football commentary and Kate Adie style front-line reportage (about invading snow!). He writes simply and clearly for junior school children, achieving melody and resonance by precision of words and form: a short witty poem like 'Copped', about a policeman who cuts himself while shaving - "'You're nicked," the policeman said' - comes in short, bouncing lines, While the menacing couplets of The Wildfowler's Nightmare' are relentless: 'I'll hunt you through the endless deep/Marshlands of your lonely sleep.' Edwards has a taste for the absurd and an underlying seriousness, sometimes brought home with a jerk at the end of a poem, that is compelling. Lawrence's line drawings exploit the mischief and help to lift a lack-lustre presentation from Faber.

Running Order:

51

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[1] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/teaching-the-parrot>

[2] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/108>

[3] <http://pop.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/clive-barnes>