

Slapstick

Roger McGough

Illustrated by Adam Stower

Published by Puffin Books

Extract

All text is copyright © Roger McGough, 2008

Illustrations copyright © Adam Stower, 2008

This opening extract is exclusive to Lovereading.
Please print off and read at your leisure.

For Bobby and Lola McGough

PUFFIN BOOKS

Published by the Penguin Group

Penguin Books Ltd, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA

Penguin Group (Canada), 90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 2Y3

(a division of Pearson Penguin Canada Inc.)

Penguin Ireland, 25 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland (a division of Penguin Books Ltd)

Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia

(a division of Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd)

Penguin Books India Pvt Ltd, 11 Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi - 110 017, India

Penguin Group (NZ), 67 Apollo Drive, Rosedale, North Shore 0632, New Zealand

(a division of Pearson New Zealand Ltd)

Penguin Books (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, 24 Sturdee Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196, South Africa

Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices: 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England

puffinbooks.com

First published 2008

1

Text copyright © Roger McGough, 2008

Illustrations copyright © Adam Stower, 2008

All rights reserved

The moral right of the author and illustrator has been asserted

Set in Sabon

Made and printed in England by Clays Ltd, St Ives plc

Except in the United States of America, this book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-0-141-32507-1

www.greenpenguin.co.uk



Penguin Books is committed to a sustainable future for our business, our readers and our planet. The book in your hands is made from paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

GINGER

Goldfish are not cold fish
Mine's a friendly little chap

After a few lengths of the bowl
He likes to curl up on my lap

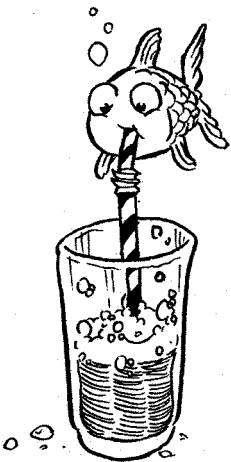
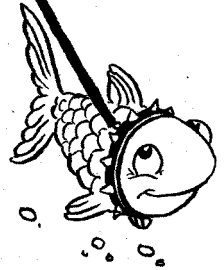
A quiet snooze then time for his feed
So I polish his scales and put on his lead

We stroll into town as people stare
At a goldfish enjoying the morning air

We settle into our local pub
Where Ginger tucks into his favourite grub

Battered cod with chips galore
Then half a lager through a straw

We dawdle home to watch TV
My pet beside me on the settee
I bet you wish you had a fish like me.



PLAY-ACTING

The curtain is rising
Light fills the page

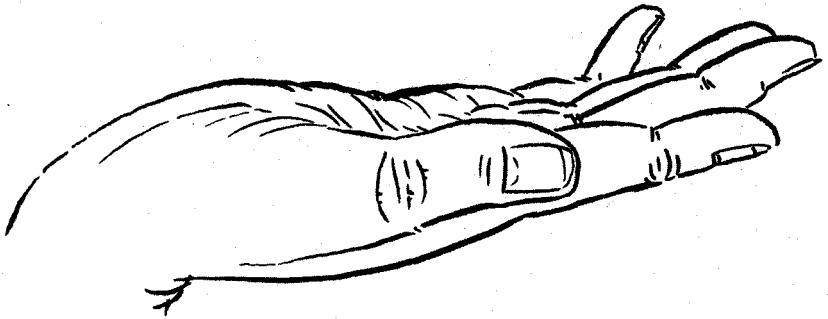
Writing is acting
Without going onstage.



HANDS

Touchers and feelers
Holders and hitters
Grippers and graspers
Growers and killers

Open in greeting
Wrung in despair
Clenched in fury
Steepled in prayer.





Platforms are dangerous

The line is alive

Fall, and a ghost train

May shortly arrive.