

Mr Baggs

I was walking home from school
with Mr Baggs
the teacher who took us for football
and he said:
'You see, Michael, what we need in the team
is a really good centre-half,
someone who can control the game from midfield
collect the ball in the middle
distribute the ball to the front players.
A good centre-half can turn a game.
He can make all the difference.
Now who have we got playing in the middle?
— oh, my goodness it's you
I forgot
I'm sorry
I wasn't thinking
no hard feelings, OK?'

Michael Rosen

The Dragon's Birthday Party

It's the dragon's birthday party,
 he's ten years old today.
 'Come and do your special trick,
 I heard his mother say.
 We crowded round the table,
 we pushed and shoved to see
 as someone brought the cake mix in
 and the dragon laughed with glee.
 It was just a bowl with flour in
 and eggs and milk and that
 with ten blue candles round the top
 in the shape of Postman Pat.
 The dragon took a big deep breath
 stood up to his full size
 and blew a blast of smoke and flame
 that made us shut our eyes.
 We felt the air grow hotter
 we knew the taste of fear.
 I felt a spark fly through the air
 and land on my left ear.
 But when we looked,
 make no mistake:
 the candles were lit
 and the cake was baked.

Ian McMillan