

# **Ups an Doons**

**by  
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**where children talk about their lives  
in text and poem**

## Ups an Doons

the gang  
staundin on the corner  
really  
if  
wee screens  
keep up  
directions  
communication  
the boss  
a cup o tea  
faimlies like mine  
twa hooses  
twa  
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Jackie  
a pal  
on ma bike  
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jokes  
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Miss Carmichael's gettin merried  
bein Mary  
bein Tammy  
haein a laugh  
dreamin  
the schule gairden  
the rest  
the penguin  
bein me  
bein you  
Joseph  
hame  
oot  
new  
brilliant

***Gangs nicht hing oot in different places. But wan thing's the same. They've got tae be thegither. Maks them feel important, ah think, an strong.***

### **the gang**

ah've seen them outside the chip shop  
they hing oot there on a Setterday nicht  
when ah cam oot wi ma chips  
wan o them took some  
an when ah said hey!  
he laughed  
ah jist went awa

but ah wisnae happy

the next time ah cam oot o the chip shop  
they were there again  
here he is they said  
an they a' took some chips  
that's no fair ah said  
no it's no is it? they said  
an they laughed  
ah jist went awa

but ah wisnae happy

the next time ah went fur chips  
ah wis ready fur them  
ah gien them the hale bag  
they laughed  
an asked me if ah'd like tae jine them  
ah said aw right then  
noo ah staund wi them outside the chip shop  
an tak chips aff o the wee boys  
ah'm wan o the gang

but ah'm no happy

*Ah've been daein the same thing fur a long time. Staundin on the corner.*

**staundin on the corner**

there's naethin great aboot this corner  
naethin special  
but we a' staund there  
we share a can  
we kick a ba aboot  
an if anither gang comes by  
we shout at them  
tae fight

when ah go hame  
naebody notices  
ah wisnae there  
ah watch the telly  
or ah go up tae ma room  
it's aye the same

when ah grow up  
ah think ah'll still be there  
staundin on the corner

*Ah suck in ma cheeks an draw masel up tall, but it's nae guid. Ah still look the same Ah still look like me.*

## really

ah'm looking at masel  
in the mirror on the wa'  
ah turn around an say  
ah wish that ah wis really thin  
jist like the models in the mags  
ye're crazy says ma mum  
whit fur?  
ye're really perfect as ye are

too thin she says  
means gettin really tired  
too tired tae hae some fun  
an sittin doon  
wi naethin really saft on ye  
tae sit upon

too bad ah says  
ah really do

but then ah'm lookin at ma mammy's face  
she's made a pizza fur ma tea  
an suddenly ah'm no sae shair  
an bein jist masel  
seems really great

eat up says mum  
ma lovely girl  
an you know what?  
ah really do

**Ah cannae be happy until.....**

**if**

**if ah could look like Jennifer  
ah would be happy  
if ah could wear whit Shelina wears  
ah would be happy  
if ah could be on the t.v.  
ah wid be happy**

**if ah wis the best at fitba  
ah wid be happy  
if ah wis the fastest runner  
ah wid be happy  
if ah won a medal  
ah wid be happy**

**maybe**

*Whit dae ye dae if ye dinnae hae whit yer pals hae? Dae ye still hae pals?*

**wee screens**

they staund thegither  
faces looking doon  
at their wee screens  
they dinnae waant me  
widnae notice me  
ye see ah dinnae hae an ipad

ah've got a book  
ah've got a brain tae read it wi  
ah've got a ba  
ah've got a fit tae kick it wi  
ah've got a life an that's enough  
ah dinnae hae an ipad  
an ah dinnae gie a stuff

*Some things maitter, but some things dinnae.*

### keep up

wha's got the latest phone?  
wha's got the latest apps?  
keep up keep up  
got tae keep up

wha's got the latest telly?  
wha's got the latest games?  
keep up keep up

wha's fed up keepin up?

*They a' think ah'm different.  
Does it maitter if ye're different?*

### directions

they go to the right  
ah go tae the left  
they go tae the cinema  
ah go tae ma practice  
they tak a bag o popcorn an a bottle o juice  
ah tak ma violin  
we go tae the same schule  
but ah staund on wan side o the playground  
an they staund on the ither

jist because  
they go tae the right  
an ah go tae the left

*Wan day Miss McDonald brought a girl wi black hair intae oor classroom.  
Her name wis Katie Cheung.*

*Miss McDonald wrote it on the board. Cheung wi an e.*

*Katie has to learn our language, said Miss McDonald. She's had a long journey to  
come here, and we must welcome her, and be her new friends.*

*She showed Katie where to sit, and we a' had tae gie her a clap.*

*But Katie kept her heid doon a' day.*

*She didnae come intae the playground at playtimes.*

*Ah saw her through the windae, sittin in the classroom, lookin at books.*

*Ah dinnae think Katie will mak ony freends if she disnae talk an she disnae play.*

## **communication**

Katie Cheung jined oor class  
she didnae say much  
she had tae learn oor language  
communication

wan day  
Katie wis sittin at the back by hersel  
but her fingers were that busy  
ah went ower  
she wis makin  
paper birds  
an paper flooers  
she wis that quick

she lifted wan up  
an smiled  
origami  
she said  
an she held it oot tae me

fair braw  
ah said  
an ah took it

noo ah can mak  
birds an flooers  
origami  
ah say  
an Katie Cheung says  
fair braw

***Ma mammy's got rid hair. She likes readin an listenin tae the radio.  
She says ah like makin a mess. But she's jokin. She likes a joke.  
Onyway, ah ken whit she likes, an ah mak shair she gets it.***

## **the boss**

**you're no the boss o me  
that's whit ah tell him  
the big boy that waants me  
tae hurry up in the schule denner line**

**he's no pleased  
but ah'm richt  
he's no the boss o me**

**dinnae be cheeky he says  
but ah'll no be stood on  
ah ken wha's the boss o me  
an it's no him**

**at hame  
ma mammy asks me  
hoo wis schule the day?  
ah tell her fine  
ah mak her a cup o tea  
fill her hot waater bottle  
an mak her comfy**

**sometimes  
ah huv tae be  
the boss o ma mammy**

*Sometimes simple things mak the day better.*

### a cup o tea

mak a cup o tea  
that's whit ma maw says  
whenever things go hairy  
that's her answer  
tae life's problems  
so ah dae

me an the tea bags  
that's a' she has  
ah hope ah come afore  
the tea bags  
but ah'm no shair!

*Ah get on fine wi it. Usually.*

### faimlies like mine

ah look after ma mum  
when ah get up in the morning  
an when ah get hame fae schule  
ah get on fine wi it

that's hoo it is  
in faimlies like mine

but  
when ah'm in class  
an ah should be learnin about history  
or daein maths  
instead  
ah think about her

that's hoo it is in faimlies like mine

*Ah've got twa hooses noo, ma dad's an ma mum's. Twa hooses an twa failmies.*

**twa hooses**

in ma dad's hoose  
is ma wee stepsister  
she likes me tae pick her up  
she likes me tae say  
roond an roond the gairden goes the teddy bear  
she claps her wee haunds  
when she sees me  
an she greets  
when ah go awa

in ma mum's hoose  
is ma big stepbrother  
he likes tae tell me jokes  
we mak popcorn thegither  
an we eat it sittin on the couch  
watchin dvds

twa hooses an twa failmies  
ah've got wan question though

whaur hae ah left ma schulebag  
at ma dad's or at ma mum's?

*Twa hooses an twa faimlies can mak doubles.*

**twa**

**twa hooses  
twa bedrooms  
twa o nearly evrythin  
that's whit ah've got  
twa Christmas trees  
twa lots o presents  
twa Easter eggs**

**but sometimes  
twa tellin- affs!**

*It wis that quiet in oor classroom this efernune. We were a' workin' on oor folders. Miss McDonald gies us an oor every Tuesday tae work on oor folders. Aisha an me sit thegither at the same table. Her folder is aboot flight, frae the first aeroplanes up tae the present day. Mine is aboot oceans. Ah ca' it The Deep. Ah'm really interested in The Deep. Ah met a real diver, wan o ma dad's pals. He had photies o The Deep, an ye could see hoo big it wis. Ye could get lost in it, he said. It's that high an wide. He had seen sharks an dolphins anaw. Miss McDonald said we could draw things, or tak pictures aff the internet. We were tae gather information. Ah like gatherin information. Ye can take yer folders and work at hame as weel, Miss McDonald said. Weel, maybe in some hooses ye could.*

### space

last nicht ah dreamt ah hud  
a wee room  
jist fur masel  
wi a wee desk  
an a wee chair  
ah hud a' ma pencils in a jar  
ma books in a bookcase  
an a notice  
on the door sayin  
do not disturb  
when ah woke up  
it wis mornin  
an oor Alison wis screamin in her cot  
Jamesy wis jumpin on the bed  
an ma maw wis wipin chocolate  
aff o Michael's face  
it's like that in oor hoose  
every day  
ye cannae hear yersel think  
some folk dream  
o riches an fame  
me?  
ah'd jist like ma ain wee space.

*Ah live wi ma dad, jist the twa o us.*

*Sometimes ma dad says we're a bit like twins. He disnae mean we look like each ither. He's auld an bald. Naw, he means we can tell whit the ither wan's thinkin, the same as twins dae, like ah ken when he's wantin some peace tae read the paper, an he kens when ah'm needin tae get oot o the hoose.*

*Ah'm a better cook than he is, though. He tries his best, but he's jist no got it. Ah can dae a great spaghetti bol. He's mair a beans on toast man.*

*We're gaun tae go on an overnighter, tae see ma Granda George. A boys' weekend, ma dad says. It's been a while since Granda George wis a boy, ah think. But ah say, 'that'll be great.' Because he tries, ma dad.*

*He tries his best.*

## **big ideas**

ah'm helpin ma dad the day  
we'll mak a tree hoose he says  
we've only got wan tree  
in oor gairden  
but ma dad's fu o plans  
big ideas  
last week he tried  
tae mak me a cairtie  
an the wheels fell aff

onywey he sterts pittin the bits o wid thegither  
fur the hoose  
he's hammerin fit tae burst  
stey there he says  
ah dinnae want ye injured  
he hits his thumb  
has tae go tae casualty  
that's the end o the tree hoose

ah dinnae say onythin though  
he's no that handy  
but  
he's fu o guid intentions  
an maybe  
that's whit maitters

*Everybody should hae somewan like Jackie*

## **Jackie**

ah missed the cubs this week  
no feelin' sae weel  
ah asked Jackie  
whit went on

oh  
he said  
we hud a sports nicht  
whit wis it like?  
ah said  
it wis a' richt  
he said

ah kent  
it wis mair than  
a richt

is that a'?  
ah said  
ah wis persistent

Jackie looked at me  
then he said  
it wis a' richt

it wid hae been great  
but you werenae there

we walked alang the road  
thegither  
me  
an ma pal  
Jackie

*Whit's a pal fur?*

**a pal**

a pal's no yer mammy  
naw

a pal disnae bother  
about yer dreepin nose  
or yer hair stickin up

whit's a pal fur?

a pal's fur  
lettin ye try oot  
different weys  
o bein you  
brave you  
funny you  
bossy you

but  
be a pal anaw  
listen tae the pal  
stick tae the pal  
that's whit a pal's fur

a pal's fur  
ever

***See when ye're feelin bad? There's weys o feelin better.***

### **on ma bike**

**sometimes  
things get tae me  
when ah've hud enough  
ah get on ma bike**

**ah leave the hooses behind  
ah ken the wey  
ah've been afore  
up the brae an ower the bridge  
tae the green bits  
we dinnae hae ony green bits  
whaur ah stey  
jist grey bits  
roads an hooses**

**here  
under ma feet  
rabbits run in their holes  
an above ma heid  
birds fly in their nests  
it's fu o life  
but it's empty  
an that's hoo ah like it**

**after a while  
ah get on ma bike  
an ah ride back  
ready fur it again  
because ah've been here  
on ma bike**

***Ye'd never ken it wis there. It's sort o tucked awa, behind the road an a' the cars an the noise.***

***There's no even a sign tae tell ye it's there. Ye see the trees first, in the distance, an when ye go towards them, the path taks ye richt in.***

***It's like anither world, it's sae different. An even if there's ither folk there, it disnae maitter. Fur ye dinnae hae tae dae things. Ye dinnae hae tae worry aboot things. Ye can jist be.***

## **the park**

**it's guid tae be  
in the park  
an it's quiet anaw  
nae arguments  
nae problems  
jist me an the ducks  
ah'd like tae stey  
in the park  
fur ever  
but ah go hame  
open the door  
an go inside**

**the park'll be there  
the morra  
it's always there  
fur me  
an kids like me**

*Ah like tae play in ma heid, use ma imagination. Everybody's got wan.*

## in ma heid

awa an play  
that's whit they say tae me  
ma ma an da  
when they waant tae be by themsels  
tae shout at wan anither

they think ah dinnae notice  
but ah do

sometimes ah go intae ma bedroom  
shut the door awa fae them  
an play in ma heid  
in ma heid ah can be  
an explorer in the jungle  
or a diver in the sea  
onythin

so ah say o.k.  
an go outside  
tae leave them baith  
tae sort things oot

ah kick a ba about  
in the smirr o rain  
but in ma heid  
the explorer's crossin the river  
an the diver's slippin intae the sea

ah turn up the collar o ma coat  
feelin better noo  
no sae upset  
see grown-ups?  
maybe they  
should play in their heids anaw

*When ah grow up, ah'd like tae be a comedian.  
Ah think they're great. Some folks appreciate painters, singers, bands an a' that,  
but ah appreciate comics. Ah like tae hear a joke.  
Ken whit ah wid dae? Ah wid tak a joke an frame it, pit it on the wa' instead o a  
picture, fur a joke is a work o art.*

## jokes

ah like a joke  
ah've got loads o them  
ma brain's fu o jokes  
cos ah like a laugh  
ah really do

ah tell ma mammy jokes  
tae mak her laugh  
ah like tae see ma mammy laugh  
cos  
ma mammy  
seys  
she's no got much tae laugh aboot

wan day  
we'll hae wir ain wee flat  
wir ain wee bit o gairden  
loads o time tae be thegither  
an life'll be  
wan big laugh  
then maybe  
ah'll no need  
tae tell sae mony jokes

*Ah've got a wee job noo, an a job pits food on the table, ma maw says.  
She's got twa jobs. Nae wunner she gets tired. So wid ah be, cleanin offices an  
flats. Ither folk's mess, she says, gies me a livin. Ah ken whit she means. So ah  
dinnae mak ony mair mess fur her tae clean up when she gets hame. Well, no  
often, onywey.*

## **the paper roond**

it's dark the day  
but Mrs Broon's licht's on  
ah see her face at the windae  
she gies me a wave  
but  
sometimes  
early in the mornin  
it's like there's only me  
in the world

it sterts tae rain  
the rain goes doon ma neck  
an runs aff ma breek  
intae ma trainers  
by the time ah get tae the end  
o the roond  
ah'm soakin  
ah'm supposed tae watch ma chest tae

Mr. Clerk's gettin intae his car  
it's rid  
wi a sticker on the back windae  
that says  
hello fae sunny Torremolinos  
ah stop fur a minute  
tae wipe ma dreepin nose  
hello fae sunny Torremolinos

wonder if Torremolinos  
could dae wi  
a paper roond?

*Huv ye ever seen magicians? Ah love whit they dae.*

**the real thing**

ma maw's got me a magic set  
fur ma birthday  
it's fu o tricks  
jist like you she says

noo ah can mak things vanish  
if ah pit them in a special box  
ah can mak things appear  
if ah hide them up ma sleeve  
but ah ken  
that's no real magic  
no the real thing

someday ah'll work oot  
hoo tae dae the real thing  
vanish the electric bill  
mak a new hoose appear fur me an ma maw

but for noo  
it's jist  
the swiftness o the haund deceives the ee  
it's floers made o paper  
till ah find  
the real thing

*They say that oor estate should be pu'ed doon.  
They shake their heids when they say its name as if it wis a bad word.  
It's no braw tae look at. Loads o windaes are boarded up, an the big boys wi the  
spray cans huv been at the wa's at the garages again.  
Frae time tae time the cooncil tries tae gie it a facelift, like ye hae when ye get yer  
teeth done an yer droopy bits sorted. So the graffiti get painted ower and the  
broken bus shelter gets mended. But it disnae work fur lang.  
Ye need tae watch yersel if ye live here. Keep yer een peeled fur trouble.  
Still, it could be worse.  
An it's no fur ever.  
Is it?*

### no masel

ah'm no masel the day  
ah'm an explorer in the jungle  
fearless  
but kind tae a' the animals

ah find a hidden cave  
wi a secret treasure chest  
ah'm jist openin the chest  
when ma maw shouts fur me  
tae go fur chips fur oor tea

ah set aff doon the road  
it's dark  
ah try tae whustle  
but ah dinnae feel like it

ah huv tae go past the flats  
whaur the big boys hing oot  
ah'm shiverin  
ah start tae run

it wis easy bein the explorer  
but  
it's harder  
bein masel

*Huv ye ever felt less than a'body else?*

**the new fitballer**

a'body's lookin at me  
ah ken they are  
ah wish ah hud better buits  
ah wish ah hud broader shooders  
a'body's lookin at me

a'body's lookin at me  
ah ken they are  
ah wish ah could run faster  
ah wish ah could jump higher  
a'body's lookin at me

ah've jist scored a goal  
a'body's lookin at me  
it's great!

*A'body's guid at somethin, aren't they?*

**guid**

ah cannae wait  
when ah get hame frae schule  
ah run  
tae open ma book

Harry wis in deep trouble  
this mornin  
an only twa chapters left  
tae get oot o it

ah haund Harry his magic sword  
ah staund by his side  
keep goin Harry  
ah say  
ye can dae it

ah'm no much guid at things  
generally  
but ah'm really guid  
at  
bein wi Harry

*Ah love Miss Carmichael  
She's ma teacher. She's the best. Ah'd like things tae stey the same. But  
sometimes they change.*

### Miss Carmichael's gettin merried

Miss Carmichael's gettin merried  
she telt us  
we're no tae ca' her  
Miss Carmichael  
wance she's merried  
she'll be  
Mrs. Black

ah've seen Miss Carmichael's man  
he's goat a motor-bike  
wance ah saw Miss Carmichael on the back  
wi her helmet

it'll be funny no ca'in her  
Miss Carmichael  
but a'thin else  
will be the same

ah hope

*Bein perfect isnae easy, is it?*

**bein Mary**

ah'm tae be in the Nativity play  
ah'm tae be Mary  
Miss Carmichael says so  
ah get tae wear a blue dress  
an hae a spotlight  
shinin on ma heid  
last year ah wis an angel  
an the year afore that  
ah wis a coo  
noo ah'm  
bein Mary  
ah'm gaun tae practise  
bein Mary  
bein good  
no hittin Sarah  
if she hits me  
no spittin in Theresa's juice  
cos ah'm bein Mary

ah wonder hoo lang  
ah can keep this up ?  
it's hard work  
bein Mary

*Tammy's in ma class at schule. He's a big boy ,but he's still got a lot tae learn.*

## bein Tammy

Tammy's been telt aff  
he wis no very nice  
tae the new boy  
Tammy's like that  
eyeweys wants tae be the boss  
an shove ye aroond  
ah'm no feart o Tammy  
but ah'm gled he's been telt aff

Tammy's hud his badge tooken awa  
Tammy wis in charge o the windae boxes  
waaterin them an a' that  
but noo he's no tae dae it ony mair

ah saw Tammy greetin behind the schule wa'  
the new boy's playin wi his freends  
he's getting on fine  
but Tammy's behind the wa'

ah ken it serves him right  
but ah think it must be hard  
bein Tammy

*He says he's haein a laugh. Some things are no funny.*

## haein a laugh

Haw you!  
Ah keep walkin  
it's him again  
he wants tae hae a laugh  
tak ma bag aff me  
an throw it about  
then run awa

ah keep walkin  
no gaun tae run fae him  
no gaun tae gie him the satisfaction

ah hear him ahent me  
he's breathin funny  
ah turn roond  
an he's a' rid in the face  
breathless

he has tae sit doon on the grund  
it's ma chance tae get awa  
but ah wait till ah see he's a' richt  
ah couldnae jist leave him  
could ah?

he gets up an walks awa

he avoids me noo  
never taks ma bag again  
ah'm gled ah waited

*Ah like tae sit wi maseel. Dae you?*

**dreamin**

ah'm sittin in a dwam  
lookin oot the windae  
ah shid be peyin attention  
but they're cuttin the gress outside  
an it's drappin like green snaw  
sometimes ah jist switch aff  
look oot the windae  
or at the sky  
you're dreamin again  
says Miss Carmichael  
an it's true  
cos  
it's guid  
jist sittin wi yersel  
dreamin

*Ye can learn a lot in a gairden.*

### the schule gairden

working in the schule gairden  
puin oot the weeds  
an waaterin

it's a sunny day  
ah shade ma een  
ah can see through the schule windaes  
ah can see Mrs Henderson's class  
waashin their brushes  
at the sink  
an cleanin up  
their paintpots

Mrs Henderson is haudin up a paintin  
an sayin somethin  
ah can see her lips movin  
but ah cannae hear onythin

it wid be nice  
if it wis really like that  
teachers seen an no heard  
ah go back tae ma weedin

fat chance

*There's mair than wan wey tae get better.*

## the rest

it's quiet in oor hoose  
mammy's oot fur the messages  
oor Pat's gone fur a run  
even the dug's outside  
ah'm jist lyin on the couch  
ah saw the doctor again yesterday  
he said tae lie still  
sleep he said  
hae a rest  
let yer body recover  
in time ye'll get stronger  
get oot tae play

it seems a lang time  
since ah wis playin  
ah shut ma een  
an ah imagine  
the pitch  
me in ma strip  
an the team shoutin tae me  
shoot shoot  
ah do  
ah score a goal  
the place gangs mad  
it's magic

when mammy comes in  
wi the messages  
she says  
whit have ye been daein wi yersel?  
whit will ah tell her  
that ah won a match  
collected a cup  
did a victory lap  
in front o the hale crowd?

ye're lookin better  
she says  
oh aye  
ah say  
ah'm feelin better

ah've enjoyed the rest

*She's a wee force o nature, ma mum says. She's never still, always wantin ye tae dance wi her or run efter her. She's that fu o energy.*

*'Leave yer brither alane, noo,' mum says. 'He's no tae be jumped on when he's lyin on the couch. He's no able yet.*

*Gaun colour in, in yer colourin book. Here's yer crayons.'*

*When she colours in, she grips the crayon that hard she nearly tears the paper wi it, an her wee tongue sticks oot o her mooth.*

*She sees me lookin at her, an she goes extra fast.*

*When ah go tae hospital, ah'll miss her. She's that fu o energy.*

## the penguin

ma wee sister

made me a caird

wi a penguin on the front

an she pit a kiss

next tae it

when she cam in

tae see me

she took back her caird

lifted it aff ma locker

hey!

said ma mammy

but her wee broos cam doon

an she gret an gret

so we let her hae it

the next day

in she comes

at veesitin time

an she gie's me

the caird again

look at it carefully

seys ma mammy

an ah do

ah see twa penguins

on the front

she's drawn anither wan

an pit anither kiss on forbye

ah laugh

but when it's time for her tae go hame

ah gie her the caird again

there's room for anither penguin

an anither kiss

***See freends? They can be great. If they're real freends.***

**bein me bein you**

**ma legs dinnae work weel  
ah'm a bit slow at walkin  
Johnny seys tae me  
can ye no go faster?  
ah'm fed up waitin for ye  
Johnny's legs work better  
but ah'd rether be me  
than Johnny**

**ma skin's awfy sair  
ah cannae go oot in the sun  
Mikey seys tae me  
ah'm no steyin in wi' you  
Mikey's skin's no sair  
but ah'd rether be me  
than Mikey**

**ah've nae hair noo  
ah wear a wee cap  
Jackie seys tae me  
you're cool  
an ye ken what?  
ah am  
an so's Jackie**

*Sometimes boys jine the ward an they dinnae say much because they think you're too wee or they're no interested in talkin.  
That's o.k. though. Ah've goat ma books an ma headphones an ma games.  
Onyway, they're no there for long. No like me.  
Joseph wis different frae the beginnin, an it didnae matter that we werenae the same age or even the same colour.  
We jist got on. Really weel.  
We hit it aff, as the nurses said. An we wid talk tae each ither even though it wis lights oot. Ah got tae ken a lot about Joseph, an he got tae ken a lot about me.  
It felt like ah'd eyeweys kent Joseph, that he'd sort of eyeweys been there...  
Ah didnae ken whit tae expect when he cam ower.  
Ah've got a pal, an ah really ken it*

### Joseph

ah've got a pal ca'ed Joseph  
he's in the next bed  
he's bigger than me  
but he's really funny

we play noughts an crosses  
ah eyeweys win  
an when the lichts go oot at nicht  
we whisper tae each ither  
ah hope Joseph disnae go hame  
afore me

Joseph's awa hame  
his dad cam an took him  
he said cheerio  
an seeya  
ah'm pleased fur Joseph  
but it's awfy quiet  
withoot him  
naebody tae whisper tae

it's veesitin time  
ah open ma book  
ma maw's workin  
cannae come the day  
ah'm onto page thirty eight  
when ah hear a voice  
hiya it seys  
it's Joseph  
whit are you daein here?

ah say  
veesitin you  
gie ye anither chance he seys  
tae win at noughts 'n' crosses

ah look at Joseph  
an ah ken  
wha's the real winner  
great ah say  
ah get oot the board  
an we settle doon fur the game  
me an Joseph

When ye're awa fae hame, it can be hard.

## hame

somebody's got the television on  
at the tap o the ward  
ah can hear it  
ah recognise the music  
it's fae  
ane o the soaps  
the wan ma maw watches  
it maks me feel sad  
tae hear it  
thinkin about hame  
ah shut ma een fur a minute  
imaginin ah'm there  
it's workin  
ah think ah can hear ma maw's voice  
sayin open yer een  
ah do  
an the thing is  
she's really there  
ma maw  
in her rid anorak  
straight aff the bus  
an suddenly  
even though ah'm in the ward  
ah feel at hame

*Think o a great day, a day when ye've won a cup, or got the very present ye'd always wanted. Noo multiply that feelin by a hundred.*

**oot**

ah step carefully  
intae the sunshine  
tak it easy noo  
seys ma mammy  
there's plenty o time

ah look up intae the sky  
an the wind blows on ma skin  
ah'm gaun slowly  
but ah feel as if ah'm dancin  
inside  
an  
ah cannae stop  
frae smilin

it's a perfect day  
fur it's the day  
that ah've been waitin fur  
an ah throw back ma heid  
an ah shout  
see me  
ah'm oot!

*Every mornin's a new mornin, a new start.*

**new**

see me

ah love a new pencil  
a' sherp an perfect

ah love a new note  
book  
wi clean white pages

ah love a new joke  
tae mak me laugh

ah love a new story  
fu o surprises

ah love a new song  
fae ma favourite group

ah love a new idea  
that draps intae ma mind

ah love a new day  
fu o opportunities

see me

ah love bein me

**brilliant**

**ah'm feelin awfy guid the day  
it's brilliant bein me**

**ah'm no the brightest  
no the strongest  
no the fastest  
no the coolest**

**but ah'm me**

**it's brilliant bein me!**