



A Poem by Michael Rosen for Inspire Annual Review 2020-21

Please may I call this meeting to order?
At normal AGMs you'd be stuck here,
but today, you'll be taken for a ride.
Of course, there's no trick or hoodwinking here
I'm talking of a scenic trip with views
to show each one of you what you've achieved
what caused folks to gasp, enthuse, be inspired.
So please do come on board this culture train
which will feed us better than a buffet
more nourishment than a sarnie and tea.

You all know well that this amazing service
was running throughout the previous few months.
You didn't get stuck at Culture-free Halt
just because Covid spread across the land.
You maintained contact with thousands out there
with books, events, calls and online learning.
And now that restrictions have been lifted
you've planned for great new offerings for all.
Let's go, driver, pull that lever, let's go.
Let's taste and savour the array of treats.

Hear the sound of the Able Orchestra:
young musicians with disabilities:
they are using iPads to create new music.
Inspire Youth Arts can bring you dance and song
Join a band, play steel pans, cool tunes.
Here's Story Explorers for under-5s
A feast of knitting with Knittinghamshire
eBooks, eAudio, Book Club, Booktalk
a superb range of chats about writing
And not to be overlooked, huh? poetry!

Inspire inspires but who inspires Inspire?
It's the people, people of all ages
people of all kinds, no barriers here
readers, writers, learners, and artists
musicians, dancers, makers, doers,
wanting to start something new in their lives
full of desire and seeking out a space
and discovering how we change ourselves
through change in art. In working together
the impossible becomes possible.

Shall I go on? You might be overcome
with modest pride that you've laid on all this
or suffer a surfeit of Food for Thought
well before this journey comes to an end.
Heaven forbid that you should not enjoy
satisfaction of having done so much
As we arrive at AGM Station
please take a moment, a second or two
to give yourself praise, plaudits and applause
for the year that's been; for the year to come



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