

# Poetry Day

THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2016

Find an event near you. Share a poem you love.

  #PoetryDayIRL

[www.poetryday.ie](http://www.poetryday.ie)

## Smile

MATTHEW SWEENEY

FROM *From Up On the Roof; New and Selected Poems*, Faber and Faber, 2001.

Smile, go on, smile!  
Anyone would think, to look at you,  
that your cat was on the barbecue  
or your best friend had died.  
Go on, curve your mouth.  
Take a look at that beggar,  
or that one-legged bus conductor.  
Where's your cross?  
Smile, slap your thigh.  
Hiccup, make a horse noise,  
lollop through the house,  
fizz up your coffee.  
Take down your guitar  
from its air-shelf and play  
imaginary reggae  
out through the open door.  
And smile, remember, smile,  
give those teeth some sun,  
grin at everyone,  
do it now, go on, SMILE!