

The Gibbon's in Decline but the Horse is Stable...anthropoemorphic
ramblings from Maureen Lipman
Robson Books 2006.

To her other many talents Maureen Lipman now adds that of poet, or at least writer of memorable *doggerel*.

The Gibbon's in Decline is a collection of four line poems about animals, each one illustrated by, among others, Gerald Scarfe, Mac, Gray Jolliffe, and the author's daughter Amy.

This is a perfect Chanukkah – or Christmas – present, as well as being worth buying in support of the cause for which it was written – The International Myeloma Foundation (UK). Myeloma was the illness from which Jack Rosenthal, Maureen Lipman's husband, died, and she began to write the poems as a distraction when he became seriously ill.

Every reader will have their favourite poem; mine is undoubtedly the Owl, which is little short of genius!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh