

kingfisher

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Kingfisher: the colour-giver, fire-bringer, flame-flicker,
river's quiver.

Ink-black bill, orange throat, and a quick blue
back-gleaming feather-stream.

Neat and still it sits on the snag of a stick, until with...

Gold-flare, wing-fan, whipcrack the kingfisher –
zingfisher, singfisher! –

Flashes down too fast to follow, quick and quicker
carves its hollow

In the water, slings its arrow superswift to swallow

Stickleback or shrimp or minnow.

Halcyon is its other name – also ripple-calmer,
water-nester,

Evening angler, weather-teller, rainbringer and

Rainbow bird – that sets the stream alight with burn
and glitter!

