

*"It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there"*

-William Carlos Williams

Good quotations I love about poetry are:

- *"Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful ... like a bouillon cube: You carry it around and then it nourishes you when you need it." - Rita Dove*
- *"We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for." -Dead Poet's Society*
- *"Poetry is the art of creating imaginary gardens with real toads." - Marianne Moore*
- *"I've written some poetry I don't understand myself." ~Carl Sandburg*
- *"Poems can inspire and make us think about what it means to be a member of the human race" - Billy Collins Library of Congress Poet Laureate*
- *"Poetry and Hums aren't things which you get, they're things which get you. And all you can do is go where they can find you." Winnie-the-Pooh, Pooh's Little Instruction Book, inspired by A. A. Milne*
- *"When power leads man towards arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the area of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses." John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963), Amherst College, Honoring Robert Frost*

Poetry Websites to Know ...

- [Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award](#) -I love Hopkins's poetry. I love the anthologies that he edits. I love his Poetry Award sponsored by him and Penn State's Center for the Book. All three 2009 awards are poetry novels or novels in verse. This is a trend that I love. The **2009** winner *Diamond Willow* moves the plot of a young girl caught in a Blizzare in remote Alaska with her sled dogs. *The Surrender Tree* is a free verse account of Cuba's struggle for independence in the 19th century. *Stitchin and Pullin*...is the free verse novel of how a young girl learns the art of quilting and how its history shares the struggle for freedom of her African American ancestors. . The **2008** winner *Birmingham 1963* provides a powerful and meaningful look at both a tragedy and a civil rights milestone in US History. *Blue Lipstick* , an honor for 2008, is an absolute hoot for upper middle school to high school. The form is concrete poetry. It would be a great springboard for concrete poetry writing. *This is just to Say*, another honor for 2008, is a poetry book that could be the foundation text for a superb poetry writing unit. Not only does it have a perfect theme for students (apologizing for less than perfect behavior) but many of the poems are written in a variety of poetic forms.

- [The Poetry Archive: CCBC -Cooperative Children's Book Center](#) (Just Poetry)
This website is a splendid resource. The search tool allows for finding poems by theme. It is a fine resource for both elementary and middle school.
- [Poets.org](#)
This is a well organized and content rich website. It is a bit geared toward high school. On the homepage, you can access wonderful ideas in the drop down menu for educators. You can find zillions of poems to share with your students. I love it.
- [National Council of English Teachers on Poetry](http://www.ncte.org/collections/poetry)<http://www.ncte.org/collections/poetry>

A wealth of ideas for planning and teaching poetry. Great ideas for celebrating next year's poetry month, **April 2010**.

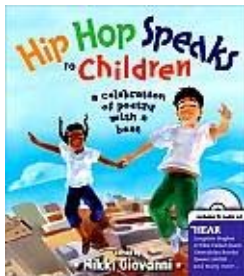
The Following Bibliography is organized by Poetry Genre

Multi-Cultural Poems and Poetry about Us

Adoff, Arnold - *Black is Brown is Tan* - Describes in verse a family with a brown-skinned mother, white-skinned father, two children, and their various relatives

My Black me : a beginning book of Black poetry- A compilation of poems reflecting thoughts on being African-American by such authors as Langston Hughes, Lucille Clifton, Nikki Giovanni, and *The ancestors are singing* - Johnston, Tony Farrar Straus Giroux, 2003., RL 5.3, 63p A collection of poems reflecting the culture, customs, daily life, and history of Mexico.

Berry, James (collector) *Around the world in Eighty Poems* This large-format book presents 80 poems, including many in translation, from 51 countries and the Arctic Circle. Selected by Berry, who was born in Jamaica and now lives in Great Britain



Giovanni, Nikki, Editor (includes some her poetry, too) - *Hip Hop Speaks to Children* - 2008 - A collection of fifty-one children's poems that features selections from Nikki Giovanni, Queen Latifah, and the Sugarhill Gang; and contains an audio CD with thirty performances.

Grimes, Nikki - (She writes She edits...She is amazing...

My Man Blue- A collection of poems describes a young boy's life with his working mother as he establishes his own identity and develops a close relationship with his mother's friend, Blue.

Hopscotch love : a family treasury of love poems- A collection of more than twenty poems speaking of different kinds of love.

Pocketful of Poems - Poems and haiku verses provides glimpses of life in the city.

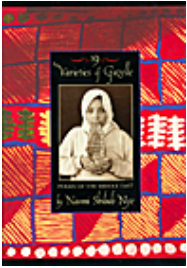
Stepping Out with Grandma Mac -Poems celebrate the special relationship between a fiery grandmother and her equally spunky granddaughter

Tai chi morning : snapshots of China - Presents a collection of poems by Nikki Grimes inspired by her 1988 visit to China, complemented by Ed Young's illustrations of his native land

What is Goodbye - Alternating poems by a brother and sister convey their feelings about the death of their older brother and the impact it had on their family.

Hughes, Langston - *The Block*- A collection of thirteen of Langston Hughes poems on African American themes.

The dream keeper and other poems- A collection of sixty-six poems, selected by the author for young readers, including lyrical poems, songs, and blues, many exploring the black experience.



Nye, Naomi Shihab -Collector & Poet Extraordinaire

Is this forever, or what? : poems & paintings from Texas A collection of poetry and full-color artwork from Texas.

Red suitcase : poems - A collection of poetry in which the author draws from ordinary people and events for subject matter.

Salting the ocean : 100 poems by young poets -Contains a hundred poems written by a hundred poets when they were in grades 1-12.

The Tree is older than you are. - Text in English and Spanish.A collection of poems, stories, and artwork by Mexican writers and artists.

The space between our footsteps : poems and paintings from the Middle East -A collection of poetry and full-color artwork from Middle Eastern and North African countries.

This same sky : a collection of poems from around the world-A poetry anthology in which 129 poets from sixty-eight different countries celebrate the natural world and its human and animal inhabitants.

What have you lost? : poems - American poet Naomi Shihab Nye collects poems on all kinds of loss by 140 writers--some well-known and some never-before-published--including William Stafford and Lucille Clifton, and provides biographical information on each contributor.



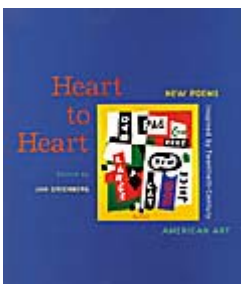
Thomas, Joyce Carol - *The Blacker the Berry*- 2008 - A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and Afro-American identity.

Art

Celebrate America : in poetry and art / edited by Nora Panzer. Paintings, sculpture, drawings, photographs, and other works of art from the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.;" One of the poems is in English and Spanish.Text and accompanying photographs

present a collection of American poetry that celebrates over 200 years of American life and history as illustrated by fine art from the collection of the National Museum of American Art.

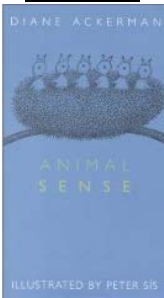
Heart to Heart: new poems inspired by twentieth-century American art edited by Jan Greenberg - A compilation of poems by Americans writing about American art in the twentieth century, including such writers as Nancy Willard, Jane Yolen, and X. J. Kennedy



Side by Side: : New Poems Inspired by Art from Around the World 2008

edited by Jan Greenberg. - Hailing from thirty-three countries on six continents, the artists and poets included in this collection represent a sampling of the world's diverse art history, from an ancient Egyptian mummy case to a huge contemporary artwork that takes over an entire museum in Sweden.

Animals



Ackerman, Diane *Animal sense* with illustrations by Peter Sis-2002 - A collection of poems that tells how such animals as alligators, bats, penguins, bumble bees, and skunks use their different senses

Cats are Cats compiled by Nancy Larrick- 1988- A collection of forty-two poems by all kinds of cats.

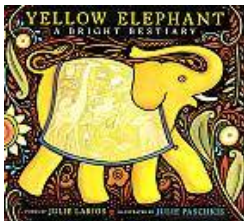
Florian, Douglas *Beast Feast: poems and paintings* - --"The anteater's long and tacky tongue is snaking from its snout." The humor, in words and pictures, will win young children: "The caterpillar's not a cat. / It's very small / And short and fat."

The accompanying picture, located on the facing page, shows a caterpillar that has eaten a cat-shaped piece from a large green leaf. *Bow wow meow meow : it's rhyming cats and dogs-* A collection of short poems about dogs and cats.

George, Kristine O'Connell. *Little Dog Poems* - Short poems present a day in the life of a little dog and its owner.

Gottfried, Maya. *Good Dog : poems* -In this heart-stealing picture book, fine artist Robert Rahway Zakanitch gives us 16 masterful, soulful, impossibly expressive portraits of dogs, and Maya Gottfried wonderfully captures their voices and inner personalities in 16 enchanting poems. It's a doggie delight!

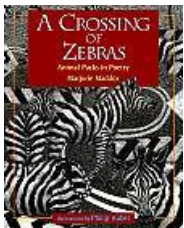
Hoofbeats, claws & rippled fins : creature poems / edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins ; art by Stephen Alcorn.- These fourteen animal poems accent the creatures' physicality. On each double-page spread, a decorative frame encases a woodblock print of an animal, barely containing its aliveness



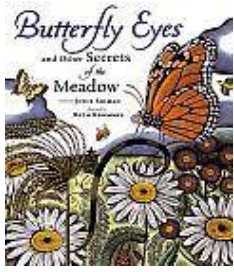
Larios, Julie Hofstrand *Yellow Elephant : a Bright Bestiary* - In this bright bestiary, poet Julie Larios and painter Julie Paschke cast a menagerie of animals in brilliantly unexpected hues--encouraging us to see the familiar in surprising new ways.

-Imaginary menagerie : a book of curious creatures - 2008 - Poems and vivid illustrations present fourteen mythical creatures, including a dragon, a centaur, a gargoyle, and a sphinx.

MacLachlan, Patricia *Once I ate a Pie.* - Free-verse poems about 14 individual dogs sprawl across oversize spreads accompanied by large oil illustrations.



Maddox, Marjorie. *Crossing of Zebras* - 2008 - A collection of fourteen illustrated poems that provide insight into animal behavior.

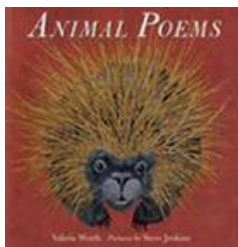


Sidman, Joyce. *Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow*- Beginning with the rising sun and ending with twilight, this book takes us on a tour through the fields, encouraging us to watch for a nest of rabbits, a foamy spittlebug, a leaping grasshopper, bright milkweed, a quick fox, and a cruising hawk.

***Red sings from treetops : a year in colors* - 2009 - Very Cool**

- *The world according to dog : poems and teen voices* - (compiled by Joyce Sidman ; with photographs by Doug Mindell) A collection of the poems about dogs is accompanied by essays by young people about the dogs in their lives.

- ***Song of the Water Boatman*** - A collection of poems that provide a look at some of the animals, insects, and plants that are found in ponds, with accompanying information about each.



Worth, Valerie. *Animal Poems* - 2007 - An illustrated collection of twenty-three poems about snails, whales, bats, camels, and other animals.

Worth, Valerie. *Peacock and other poems* - Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002., A collection of poems by Valerie Worth.

Narrative Poetry

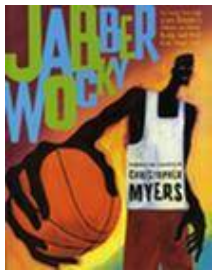
Casey at the bat : a ballad of the Republic, sung in the year 1888 - Thayer, Ernest Lawrence, 1863-1940. Putnam & Grosset Group, 1997, c1988.,

The popular narrative poem about a celebrated baseball player who strikes out at the crucial moment of a game, with additional text placing it in the context of Little League

The cremation of Sam McGee - Service, Robert W. (Robert William), 1874-1958 Kids Can Press, 1986, c1907.,

The famous poem by Robert W. Service about the profound cold of the Yukon and how it affected two gold miners is put to illustration by Ted Harrison.

Hiawatha and Megissogwon - Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882. National Geographic Society, 2001., Warrior Hiawatha fights the evil magician Megissogwon at the bidding of his wise old grandmother, Nokomis, in this illustrated presentation of a section from Henry



Wadsworth Longfellow's classic poem, "The Song of Hiawatha," based on the tales of the Anishinabe Nation.

Jabberwocky - Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898. 2007. Art by Christopher Myers. An illustrated and new take on the very famous classic nonsense poem from "Through the Looking Glass"

Keep on singing : a ballad of Marian Anderson - Livingston, Myra Cohn. Holiday House, c1994., RL 3.9, 32p A narrative poem relating the life of

Marian Anderson, who despite her humble beginnings in Philadelphia, became a world-renowned singer.

The midnight ride of Paul Revere - Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882. National Geographic Society, 2002., RL 6.0, 32p The famous narrative poem recreating Paul Revere's midnight ride in 1775 to warn the people of the Boston countryside that the British were coming.

More spice than sugar : poems about feisty females Houghton Mifflin, 2001., RL 2.3, 80p A collection of poems which celebrates unusual women.

Once upon a poem : favorite poems that tell stories -Chicken House , Scholastic, 2004., Presents an illustrated collection of fifteen stories told in verse, including "Jabberwocky," "Paul Revere's Ride," and "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

The Owl and the Pussycat - Lear, Edward, 1812-1888. -- Chronicle Books, c2003., After a courtship voyage of a year and a day, Owl and Pussy finally buy a ring from Piggy and are blissfully married.

The spider and the fly - Howitt, Mary Botham, 1799-1888- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. - An illustrated version of the well-known poem about a wily spider who preys on the vanity and innocence of a little fly.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod - Field, Eugene, 1850-1895. Scholastic, 2004., A classic lullaby poem about three fishermen who try to catch the stars in nets of silver and gold.

You read to me, I'll read to you : very short fairy tales to read together : (in which wolves are tamed, trolls are transformed, and peas are triumphant) - Hoberman, Mary Ann. Little, Brown, c2004. Presents short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices designed especially for young children and adults to read together.

You read to me, I'll read to you : very short stories to read together - Hoberman, Mary Ann-- Little, Brown, c2001. A book of children's poetry which encourages young children to read with an adult.

Humorous Poetry



Agee, Jon. *Orangutan Tongs* - 2009 - Delightful tongue twisters. Very funny and fun.

A poke in the I : a collection of concrete poems - selected by Paul Janeczko ; illustrated by Chris Raschka. Thirty poems which have their text arranged to startle the reader.

A Foot in the Mouth - 2009 -selected by Paul Janeczko - Poems for one voice, two voice or three voice. I love Chris Raschka's art, too.

Grandits, John *Technically, it's not my fault : concrete poems* -A collection of poems in which words and art combine to make pictures of the life of an 11 year-old boy.



BlueLipstick - This is an absolute hoot. Concrete poems about a girl named Jessie who mocks the school which she attends.

Florian, Douglas - Many books to his name all with decent art.

Laugh-eteria : poems and drawings -A collection of more than one hundred humorous poems on such topics as ogres, pizza, fear, school, dragons, trees, and hair.

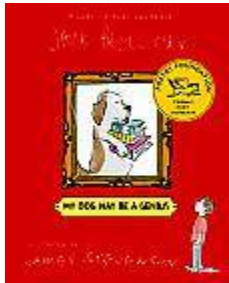
Florian, Douglas. *In the swim : poems and paintings*-A collection of humorous poems about such underwater creatures as the starfish, piranha, and clam.

I invited a dragon to dinner : and other poems to make you laugh out loud / illustrated by Chris L. Demarest- A collection of humorous poems about such subjects as pickles, dragons, and mothers

Prelutsky, Jack Too Many Books to mention.....

- *The swamps of Sleethe : poems from beyond the solar system 2009*

- *Awful Ogre Running Wild* - 2008 - A collection of poems recounting the awesome adventures Awful Ogre has during his summer vacation.



- *My Dog May Be a Genius* - 2008 - A collection of poems by children's poet laureate Jack Prelutsky that celebrate the joys of childhood and the wackier side of life.

- *Nightmares*- Twelve poems featuring a vampire, werewolf, ghoul, and other monsters
New Kid on the Block - Presents humorous poems about such strange creatures and people as Baloney Belly Billy and the Gloopy Gloopers.

Scranimals : poems illus by Peter Sis- A series of poems leads readers through a land where vegetables, flowers, and animals are all scrambled together.

Sidman, Joyce. *This is Just to Say* - Poems of apologies based on William Carlos Williams poem.

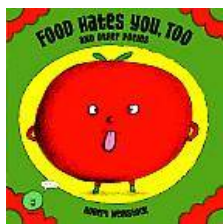
Silverstein, Shel - *Where the Sidewalk Ends-Light in the Attic-Falling Up: poems and drawings.* - Three collection of poems by American poet and humorist, Shel Silverstein including the poems My nose garden, Little Hoarse, Strange Restaurant, Sharing, Noise Day, and many more. *Runny Babbit* published after his death.

Shields, Carol Diggory. -*Almost Late to School* - Presents an illustrated collection of twenty-two poems about the ups and downs of life in school.

Lunch money and other poems about school - The daily events of school provide lots of fun in these bouncing rhymes and brightly colored cartoon pictures. There are verses about running for the bus in the morning, gossiping on the jungle gym, swapping and reswapping lunch, doing homework, and counting every single word for that book report ("This was a very, very, very nice book").



Soto Gary *Partly Cloudy* - 2009 A humorous collection of poetry told from the point of view of both boys and girls who share their emotions about first loves, crushes, and broken hearts.



Weinstock, Robert *Food hates you, too and other poems* -2009 - A collection of nineteen illustrated, humorous poems about food. Wilson, Karma.
What's the weather inside? : poems- 2009 - 120 humorous poems similar in style and humor as Shel Silverstein.

History

A revolutionary field trip : poems of colonial America - Katz, Susan. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. Nineteen poems reveal life in colonial America as seen through the eyes of a teacher and her class when they go on field trips to historic sites from the Revolutionary War era.

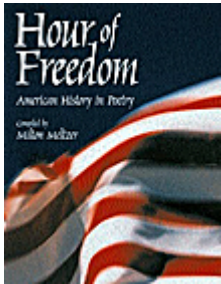
War and the Pity of War - edited by Philip Neil - from the well known (Tennyson, Whitman, Sandburg, Auden), to the obscure (Anakreon from ancient Greece and 11th-century Chinese poet Bunno)



Lewis, J. Patrick. *The Brothers' War : Civil War Voices in Verse* / National Geographic - 2008 - Lewis' poignant poetry gives young readers a vivid insight into the brutal conflict that tore America apart. The author draws on primary-source books and articles to inspire each poem, bringing the ordinary and extraordinary voices of the Civil War to light.

The Free and the Brave : a collection of poems about the United States / compiled and annotated by Patricia M. Stockland ; illustrated by

Sara Rojo Perez- Each poem-mostly one per page-is accompanied by a colorful illustration and an explanation of a related poetic form or concept, such as acrostic, meter, voice, onomatopoeia, or limerick.



Hour of freedom : American history in poetry / compiled by Milton Meltzer ; illustrations by Marc Nadel-

The story of America told through poetry, selected by one of the country's foremost historians

We the People - 2000 - Katz, Bobbi Katz This book makes history come alive with poetry about people from history

America at War - 2008 edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins. - A collection of more than fifty poems and paintings that reflect Americans' views on and response to warfare from the American Revolution through the Iraq War.

Siebert, Diane. (art by Stephen Johnson) ***Tour America*** - 2006- A journey of America through poems and art.

Science

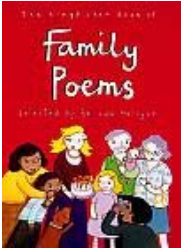
Scien-trickery : riddles in science - Lewis, J. Patrick. Silver Whistle, c2004. A collection of poems that describe people, places, and things associated with science, including oxygen, the ocean, and germs

Sieszka, Jon .*Science Verse* Presents a story and CD about a teacher who tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything and a student is struck with a curse where he hears nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems.

Spectacular science : a book of poems / selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins ; illustrated by Virginia Halstead.- collection of poems about science by a variety of poets, including Carl Sandburg, Valerie Worth, and David McCord

Yolen, Jane - *Color me a rhyme : nature poems for young people*- Presents thirteen poems about the colors found in nature, complemented by color photographs.

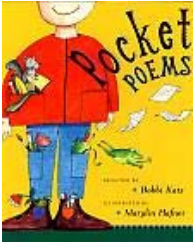
Anthologies



The Kingfisher book of family poems / 2003 - selected by Belinda Hollyer ; illustrated by Holly Swain. The design is perfect for reading aloud. Wonderful choices. This is a worth recommendation for family purchase.

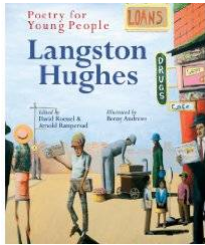
Pocket poems / 2004 selected by Bobbi Katz ; illustrated by Marylin Hafner

More Pocket Poems / 2009 selected by Bobbi Katz ; illustrated by Marylin Hafner- Some mighty fine poets and great diversity. These two books are marvelous for the younger set.



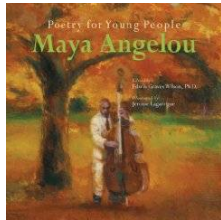
Caroline Kennedy's *A Family of Poems 2005* (art by Jon Muth is superb.)- Beautiful art work to a fine selection of poetry.

Poet Masters in a Great Series Poetry for Young People -



Langston Hughes- Introduces life of Langston Hughes and presents some of his fine poetry.

Maya Angelou- Introduces life of Maya Angelou and presents some of her wonderful poetry.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge, - Introduces the life of author Samuel Taylor Coleridge and presents a sample of his poetry, including complete works and excerpts, with a brief, explanatory introduction to each
Emily Dickinson, -Collection of poetry for children, focusing on delight in the hidden secrets of the everyday world.

Robert Frost -A collection of poems about the four seasons by one of the best-known American poets.

Edward Lear. An illustrated collection of thirty-five humorous poems by Edward Lear for children and adults.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, -An illustrated selection of twenty-seven complete or excerpted poems by the renowned nineteenth-century New England poet. Also includes information about his life.

Edna St. Vincent Millay, -A selection of thirty-four poems from the Pulitzer Prize winner, including an introduction about her life and work.

Edgar Allan Poe -A collection of thirteen poems and eight prose selections from larger works.

Carl Sandburg. Presents a collection of poems by the beloved American author who, as a young man, travelled across the Midwest as a hobo.

Robert Louis Stevenson, -An illustrated collection of thirty-two popular poems by Robert Louis Stevenson, mostly from "A Child's Garden of Verses." Includes an introduction about the poet's life and work.

Alfred Tennyson Tennyson -A brief profile of the nineteenth century English poet, Alfred Tennyson, accompanies selections from some of his best known works.

Walt Whitman, -An illustrated collection of twenty-six poems and excerpts from longer poems by the renowned nineteenth-century poet.

William Carlos Williams, -Presents a selection of thirty poems by American poet and physician William Carlos Williams, and includes illustrations and brief introductory remarks. *William Wordsworth*, Presents an introduction to the life and works of eighteenth-century English poet William Wordsworth, and features a selection of his poems, each with a brief introduction and definitions of difficult words and terms.