

Poetry Resources

Attenborough, Liz (ed.), *Poetry by Heart* (2001). Somerset, UK: The Chicken House. The poems in this book, also available from Scholastic Inc., are selected because they are worth memorizing. Some are short, some are long. Themes include Uplifting and Brave, Love and Friendship, Peace and Quiet, and Fur and Feathers. Each section has a different illustrator who creates the visual thread that ties the poems together.

Fleischman, Paul, *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* (1988). New York: HarperCollins. This series of insect poems was written to be read aloud by two individuals or groups. Each poem is a different insect – some are humorous, others angry, sad, or contemplative. Excellent for choral reading. Newbery Award Winner.

Hale, Gloria (ed.), *Read-Aloud Poems for Young People* (1997). New York: Black Dog and Leventhal, Inc. Selections range from classic (Longfellow, Yeats) to contemporary (Angelou, Silverstein) and offer thematically organized poems chosen to introduce children to poetry and engage them in the joy of hearing and reading poems.

Heard, Georgia, *This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort*, il. by 18 noted picture book artists (2002). Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press. After September 11, many people sought comfort in words and images. This book is comprised of by authors such as Maya Angelou, Wendell Berry, Emily Dickinson, Eloise Greenfield and others, Each poem is accompanied by an illustration by a noted picture book artist, among them William Steig, Peter Sís, and Chris Raschka.

Kennedy, X. J. & Kennedy, D. M., *Knock at a Star: A Child's Introduction to Poetry*. (1999). Boston: Little, Brown and Company. This volume is organized around the ideas of what poetry can do (e.g., poetry can make you smile, help you understand people). Illustrative poems by well-known and not-so-well known poets are included.

Kennedy, Caroline A *Family of Poems*, il. by Jon Muth (2005). New York: Hyperion Books for Children. The collection of more than 100 poems, from classic to contemporary, provides a starting point for children as they learn to appreciate the beauty of this genre. The magic of this volume is its organization into sections to which children can relate: About Me, That's So Silly, Animals, The Seasons, The Seashore, Adventure, and Bedtime. Jon Muth's illustrations are breathtaking!

Koch, Kenneth & Farrell Kate (ed.), *Talking to the Sun* (1985). New York: Henry Holt and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Art and language blend to present themes such as nature, cities, love, as well as different forms of poetry including haiku, sonnets, rhyming and those that do not. The poetry and the art that accompanies it are selected from diverse times and cultures. There are occasional brief notes defining vocabulary or explaining the circumstances of a poem's creation.

Paschen, Elise & Mosby, Presson Rebekah, *Poetry Speaks* Narrated by Charles Osgood (2001). Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks. This is a treasure because it contains not only poems by 42 well-known poets, among them Walt Whitman, Gwendolyn Brooks, Carl Sandburg, Langston Hughes, and Robert Frost, but the book comes with 3 CDs of the poets reciting their own works. Imagine hearing Langston Hughes describe how he came to write "A Negro Speaks of Rivers!" (Updated in 2007 as *Poetry Speaks Expanded*.)

Paschen, Elise, *Poetry Speaks to Children*. (2005). Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks. Poems for younger listeners and readers by classic and contemporary poets – 95 poems by 73 poets, from Emily Dickinson and Lewis Carroll to Billy Collins and Gwendolyn Brooks. This book comes with a CD containing 52 of the poems, many read by the poets themselves.

Poetry for Young People A series by various editors and illustrators. New York: Sterling. Individual books feature classic poets whose works are selected for young readers. Titles include Shakespeare, Whitman, Hughes, Dickinson, Poe, Kipling, Frost, Sandburg, and others. The poems are richly illustrated, and each volume includes biographical information about the featured poet.

Poetry 180 <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/> Project of the former Poet Laureate of the United States, Billy Collins, this is a collection of poems intended for adolescents, one for each day of the school year. Some are certainly accessible to younger students as well. Collins also includes advice for guiding students as they read poems aloud.

Thompson, Michael Clay (multiple dates) Unionville, NY: Royal Fireworks Press. Rather than annotate each book in this series, I have included the website that lists and describes each. The series consists of a comprehensive study of poetry for grade levels 3-12. Thompson builds this study on a foundation of classic poets and poetry.

<http://www.rfwp.com/series36.htm>