

POETRY IN THE STORY HOUR

Children love rhythm and rhyme, so poetry is a must for your storyhours. Of course, much of what you are already doing is poetry: songs, fingerplays, and some games. Include also stories told in rhyme and single poems so children get a wide experience of verse.

Here are some of the best books of poetry, but don't stop with these; there are many more excellent ones.

STORIES TOLD IN RHYME

Alarcon, Karen Beaumont. *Louella Mae, She's Run Away*. Illustrated by Rosanne Litzinger. Holt, 2002. (pap.)

Alborough, Jez. *Where's My Teddy?* Candlewick, 1994. (pap.)

Arnosky, Kim. *At This Very Moment*. Dutton, 2011.

Aylesworth, Jim. *Old Black Fly*. Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Holt, 1992.

Baker, Keith. *Hickory Dickory Dock*. Harcourt, 2007.

Baker, Keith. *Little Green*. Harcourt, 2001. BB.

Baker, Keith. *LMNO Peas*. Beach Lane, 2010.

Bemelmans, Ludwig. *Madeline*. Viking, 1967.

Bluemle, Elizabeth. *How Do You Wokka-Wokka?* Illustrated by Randy Cecil. Candlewick, 2009.

Brooke, Leonard Leslie. *Johnny Crow's Garden*. Oxford City Press, 2012 (pap.).

Brown, Margaret Wise. *Big Red Barn*. Illustrated by Felicia Bond. HarperCollins, 1989.

Carlstrom, Nancy White. *Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?* Illustrated by Bruce Degen. S & S, 1986. (and sequels)

Christelow, Eileen. *Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed*. Clarion, 2011.

Clements, Andrew. *Dogku*. Illustrated by Tim Bowers. S & S, 2007.

Degen, Bruce. *Jamberry*. HarperCollins, 1983.

De Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. *May I Bring a Friend?* Illustrated by Beni Montresor. Atheneum, 1971.

Dewdney, Anna. *Llama, Llama, Red Pajama*. Viking, 2005. (and sequels)

Donaldson, Julia. *Gruffalo*. Puffin, 2006. (pap.)

Fox, Mem. *Let's Count Goats!* Illustrated by Jan Thomas. Beach Lane, 2010.

George, Kristine O'Connell. *Book!* Illustrated by Maggie Smith. Clarion, 2001.

Gershator, Phillis. *When It Starts to Snow*. Illustrated by Martin Matje. Holt, 2001. (pap.)

Grossman, Bill. *My Little Sister Ate One Hare*. Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. Dragonfly Books, 1998 (pap.).

Harrison, David. L. *When Cows Come Home*. Illustrated by Chris L. Demarest. Boyds Mills, 2001. (pap.)

Ho, Minfong. *Hush! A Thai Lullaby*. Illustrated by Holly Meade. Scholastic, 2000. (pap.)

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *A House Is a House for Me*. Illustrated by Betty Fraser. Viking, 1978.

Intriago, Patricia. *Dot*. Margaret Ferguson, 2011.

Jackson, Alison. *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie*. Illustrated by Judy Schachner. Dutton, 1997.

Kohuth, Jane. *Duck Sock Hop*. Illustrated by Jane Porter. Dial, 2012.

Lewin, Betsy. *Where is Tippy Toes?* Atheneum, 2010.

Lewis, Kevin. *Chugga Chugga Choo Choo*. Illustrated by Daniel Kirk. Hyperion, 1999.

Lord, John Vernon. *The Giant Jam Sandwich*. Houghton, 1987 (pap.).

MacDonald, Amy. *Cousin Ruth's Tooth*. Illustrated by Marjorie A. Priceman. Sandpiper, 2003. (pap.)

MacDonald, Amy. *Rachel Fister's Blister*. Illustrated by Marjorie A. Priceman. Sandpiper, 1993. (pap.)

Mahy, Margaret. *17 Kings and 42 Elephants*. Illustrated by Patricia MacCarthy. Dial, 1987.

Martin, Bill & John Archambault. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert. S & S, 1989.

Martin, Bill. *Ten Little Caterpillars*. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert. Beach Lane, 2011.

Moss, Lloyd. *Zin! Zin! Zin!: A Violin*. Illustrated by Marjorie A. Priceman. S & S, 1995.

Murray, Alison. *One, Two, That's My Shoe*. Hyperion, 2012.

Neitzel, Shirley. *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow*. Illustrated by Nancy Winslow Parker. Greenwillow, 1989.

O'Keefe, Susan Heyboer. *One Hungry Monster: A Counting Board Book in Rhyme*. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Little, Brown, 2001. BB.

Parenteau, Shirley. *Bears on Chairs*. Illustrated by David Walker. Candlewick, 2009.

Plourde, Lynn. *Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud*. Illustrated by John Schoenherr. Down East, 2006.

Raschka, Chris. *Little Black Crow*. Atheneum, 2010.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. *All the World*. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Beach Lane, 2009.

Schertle, Alice. *Little Blue Truck Leads the Way*. Illustrated by Jill McElmurry. Harcourt, 2009.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. *Green*. Roaring Brook, 2012.

Sendak, Maurice. *Pierre: A Cautionary Tale*. HarperCollins, 1962.

Seuss, Dr. *And to Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*. Random, 1989. (and others)

Shaw, Nancy. *Sheep in a Jeep*. Illustrated by Margot Apple. Houghton, 1986. (and sequels)

Sutton, Sally. *Demolition*. Illustrated by Brian Lovelock. Candlewick, 2012.

Thomas, Jan. *Rhyming Dust Bunnies*. Beach Lane, 2009. (and others)

Wells, Rosemary. *Noisy Nora*. Viking, 1999.

Wilson, Karma. *Bear Snores On*. Illustrated by Jane Chapman. McElderry, 2002. (and others)

Wilson, Karma. *The Cow Loves Cookies*. Illustrated by Marcellus Hall. McElderry, 2010.

Wood, Audrey. *Silly Sally*. Harcourt, 1992.

Yee, Wong Herbert. *Fireman Small*. Houghton, 1994.

Yolen, Jane. *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* Illustrated by Mark Teague. Blue Sky, 2000.
(and sequels)

SINGLE ILLUSTRATED POEMS

Cabrera, Jane. *Old Mother Hubbard*. Illustrated by Sarah Catherine Martin. Holiday House, 2008. Board Book.

Carroll, Lewis. *Jabberwocky*. Illustrated by Christopher Myers. Jump at the Sun, 2007.

Carryl, Charles Edward. *The Camel's Lament*. Illustrated by Charles Santore. Random, 2004.

Field, Eugene W. *Wynken, Blynken, and Nod*. Illustrated by Giselle Potter. Schwartz & Wade, 2008.

Fisher, Aileen. *The Story Goes On*. Illustrated by Mique Moriuchi. Roaring Brook, 2005.

Frost, Robert. *Birches*. Illustrated by Ed Young. Owlet, 2002. (pap.)

Hale, Sarah Josepha. *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. Photos by Bruce McMillan. Scholastic, 1990.
o.p.

Howitt, Mary. *The Spider and the Fly*. Illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi. S & S, 2002.

Lear, Edward. *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Several editions available.

Martin, Bill, Jr. *"Fire! Fire! Said Mrs. McGuire"*. Illustrated by Vladimir Radunsky. Harcourt, 2006.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Moon*. Illustrated by Tracey Campbell Pearson FSG, 2006.

Thayer, Ernest L. *Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888*. Illustrated by C.F. Payne. S&S, 2003.

POETRY COLLECTIONS

Find a special poem in one of the following collections and share it at your next story hour in one of the following ways:

- read the poem aloud

- memorize the poem to recite
- tell the poem with appropriate background music
- use a prop to help tell the poem: a picture, a banner, a puppet, a flannel board, an object
- anything goes!

Brown, Calef. *Dutch Sneakers and Flea-Keepers: 14 More Stories*. Houghton, 2000. Gr. 2-5.
Creative and energetic story poems.

Demarest, Chris L. *I Invited a Dragon to Dinner: And Other Poems to Make You Laugh Out Loud*. Puffin, 2004. (pap.) K-Gr. 3.

A compilation of poems that is the result of a nationwide contest to find the best new writers of verse for children.

de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. *Sing a Song of Popcorn: Every Child's Book of Poems*. Scholastic, 1988. o.p. K up.

A collection of modern and traditional poetry illustrated by nine Caldecott Medal artists.

Florian, Douglas. *Beast Feast*. Voyager, 1998. (pap.) (and others) Gr. 1-5.

A collection of humorous poems about such animals as the walrus, anteater, and boa.

Florian, Douglas. *Bing Bang Boing*. Harcourt, 1994.

Laugh-Eteria. Harcourt, 1999. Gr. 2-6.

Short, funny poems illustrated with spare, comic drawings.

Florian, Douglas. *Bow Wow Meow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs*. Harcourt, 2003. Gr. 1-5.

Twenty-one humorous poems about dogs and cats.

Florian, Douglas. *Laugh-eteria*. Harcourt, 1999. Gr. 2-6.

Humorous short verse.

Frost, Robert. *You Come Too*. Owlet, 2002. (pap.) Gr. 3 up.

Frost's poetry selected for young people.

Hall, Donald, editor. *The Oxford Book of Children's Verse in America*. Oxford University Press, 1985. Gr. 3 up.

Kennedy, Caroline. *A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children*. Illustrated by Jon J Muth. Hyperion, 2005. Gr. 2 up.

Beautifully illustrated with Muth's watercolors, this is divided into sections such as "About Me" and "Animals."

Kennedy, X. J. *Talking Like the Rain: A First Book of Poems*. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Little, Brown, 1992. o.p. PS-Gr. 3.

Beautifully illustrated, this collection is perfect for young listeners.

- Prelutsky, Jack. *The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*. Illustrated by Peter Sis. Greenwillow, 1993. Gr. 1-4.
17 whimsical wonder-filled poems about dragons.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *My Dog May Be a Genius*. Greenwillow, 2008.
A Pizza the Size of the Sun. Greenwillow, 1996.
Something Big Has Been Here. Greenwillow, 1990.
The New Kid on the Block. Greenwillow, 1984. All illustrated by James Stevenson. Gr. 1-6.
Poems guaranteed to tickle the funny bone and make poetry-haters into poetry-lovers.
- Prelutsky, Jack, sel. *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*. Illustrated by Arnold Lobel. Random House, 1983. K-Gr. 5.
A collection of 572 poems arranged in 14 thematic sections, mostly by modern children's poets.
- Prelutsky, Jack, sel. *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*. Knopf, 1986. PS-Gr. 2.
More than 200 poems selected for preschoolers.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *Tyrannosaurus Was a Beast: Dinosaur Poems*. Illustrated by Arnold Lobel. Greenwillow, 1992. (pap.) K up.
Poems about 14 different dinosaurs.
- Ramussen, Halfdan. *A Little Bitty Man: And Other Poems for the Very Young*. Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. Candlewick, 2011. PS-Gr. 2.
Translated from the Danish, these poems are full of humor, charm and whimsy.
- Rosen, Michael, sel. *Poems for the Very Young*. Illustrated by Bob Graham. Kingfisher, 1994. PS-Gr. 3.
A mixture of traditional rhymes, verse by poets and pieces written by children.
- Salas, Laura Purdie. *BookSpeak!: Poems About Books*. Illustrated by Josee Bisailon. Clarion, 2011.
- Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. HarperCollins, 1974.
A Light in the Attic. HarperCollins, 1981.
Falling Up. HarperCollins, 1996.
Every Thing On It. HarperCollins, 2011. Gr. 2 up.
Four exuberant collections of humorous light verse.
- Stevenson, Robert L. *A Child's Garden of Verses*. Many editions available. PS-Gr. 3.
Classic poems that still capture the essence of childhood.
- Whipple, Laura, comp. *Eric Carle's Animals Animals*. Illustrated by Eric Carle. Philomel, 1989. PS-Gr. 4.

A marvelous range of poems about all kinds of animals illustrated with Carle's beautiful tissue paper collages.

Worth, Valerie. *All the Small Poems and Fourteen More*. Illustrated by Natalie Babbitt. FSG, 1996. (pap.) Gr. 2 up.

Originally published as four separate books, this includes all of Worth's short poems about familiar things.

Yolen, Jane & Andrew Fusek Peters, comps. *Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry*. Illustrated by Polly Dunbar. Candlewick, 2007. PS-K.

A glorious collection of upbeat poetry for preschoolers, printed in various ink colors and accompanied by large, vibrant illustrations.

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