

Celebrate Poetry

with Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing!



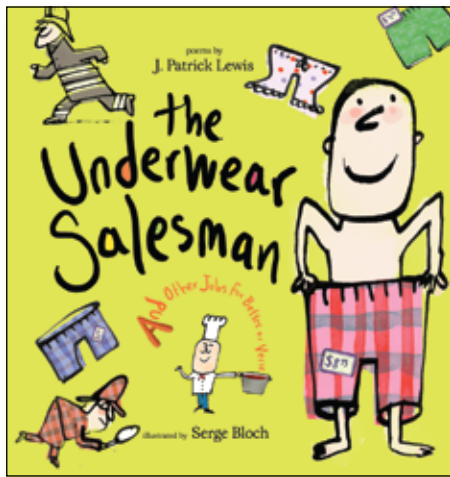
Inside:

J. Patrick Lewis, Alan Katz, Ellen Hopkins,
Karma Wilson, Charles R. Smith Jr.,
and many more!

From *What's the Weather Inside?* by Karma Wilson. Illustration © 2009 Barry Blitt

Visit TEACH.SimonandSchuster.net for a Poetry Classroom Activity Guide

Straight from the Poet's Mouth...



A Conversation with J. Patrick Lewis

Q: How did you decide to start writing poetry?

A: Without being earnestly melodramatic, I should say that poetry found me. Before that I professed college economics for thirty years.

Q: What place does poetry occupy in literature, particularly for children?

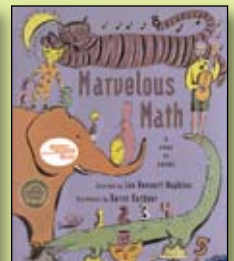
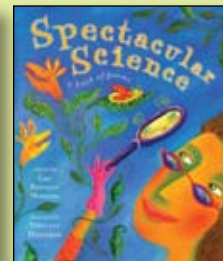
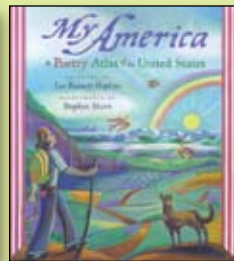
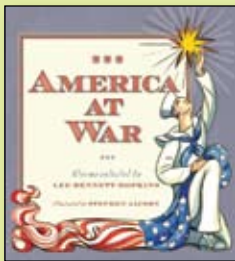
A: Poetry predates books, predates the alphabet. It is the path through which children first learn language—songs, nursery rhymes. Poetry ought to be part of every child's everyday experience. If some people say they don't need poetry, bully for them. But that's not an argument for keeping poetry from children in the first place. I like to think that poetry is a blind date with enchantment.

Q: What is your usual writing process?

A: The eternal question: Where does a poet get his ideas? I believe they rise, after a few hours, through the bottom of a chair. Seriously, you must be willing to remove yourself from the world for long periods of time—in my case, seven days a week. It's a lonely business, but it's also the most satisfying I can think of. To paraphrase Thomas Edison, writing is only ten percent inspiration and ninety percent perspiration. If I have written a dozen words at the end of a day in a way no one else has ever written them, I count myself a lucky man. —J. Patrick Lewis

Illustration © 2009 Serge Bloch

From Lee Bennett Hopkins: Sharer of Poetry



Anthologies I create are the kinds of volumes I had access to while teaching elementary grades. I have always affirmed that poetry should be shared every day—meshing with every area of the curriculum. To spark a love of poetry, to bring poetry into children's lives in a meaningful, unforced way is one of the best gifts we can give.

Reading, writing, collecting, and sharing poetry is my passion. The power of poetry forever mystifies me, for so much can be said with few words and lines. I hope you enjoy my collections as much as I love bringing them to you. Happy poetry-ing!

—Lee Bennett Hopkins, Recipient of the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children

Straight from the Poet's Mouth...

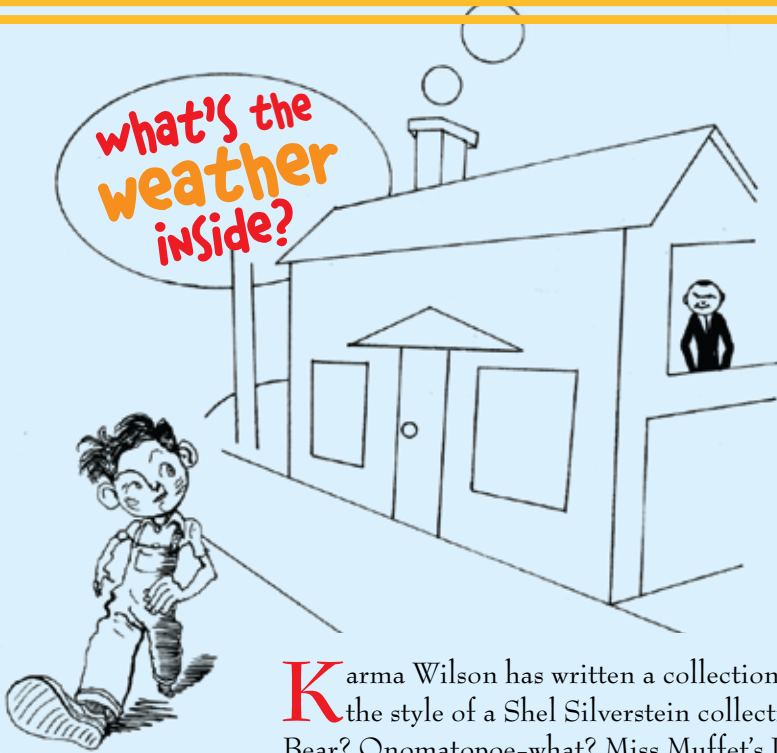


Illustration © 2009 Barry Blitt

Deplorable

It's awful
And deplorable
It's terrible
And horrible
Mom called me
Adorable
In front of
All my friends.



Karma Wilson has written a collection of more than 100 poems, both humorous and poignant, in the style of a Shel Silverstein collection. *What's the weather inside?* A teddy bear named Betty Bear? Onomatopoe-what? Miss Muffet's Revenge. Tae Kwon Don't. These are just a few of the serious and not-so-serious (but equally thoughtful) scenarios that *New York Times* bestselling author Karma Wilson ponders in her delightful collection of poetry. With black-and-white illustrations by renowned cartoonist Barry Blitt, whose work has been featured on the cover of *The New Yorker*, this volume of poetry will be a hit with readers of all ages.

Little Known Facts about Alan Katz

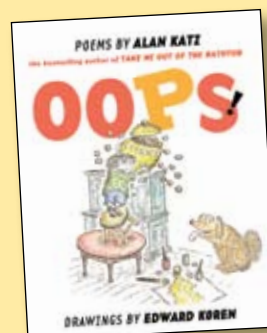
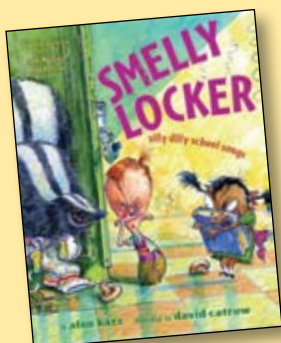
On his life philosophy: "I've always loved to laugh. Who doesn't? It feels good. And so my lifetime philosophy has been: If you can find a way to keep laughing, you can get through any situation."

Dealing with his kids: "The kids fight over the most unusual things: Who ate the last hard stale doughnut, who gets to use the dented metal juice cup, who sleeps with the smelly red blanket (They all want to!), who left the light on, who turned the light off, and on and on and on. Most families have a time-out chair—we've got a time-out couch." —Alan Katz



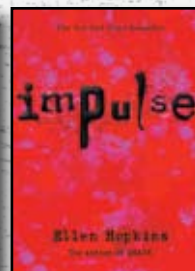
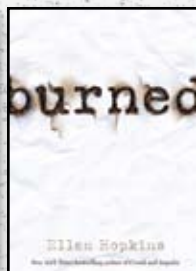
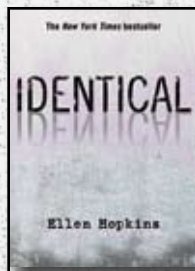
ALAN KATZ
SERIOUSLY SILLY

Illustration © 2009 David Catron



Verse to Verse

Ellen Hopkins on Her Unexpected Success



It's a great surprise to find myself a bestselling author, and not only because I write in verse, but also because no writer could ever predict this kind of success. I knew I had a knack for storytelling, I knew I could put words down on paper, I knew I had important stories to tell and a certain flair for poetry, but to put all that together and to create books readers love and build that into a readership that has become this amazing in four years was beyond even my wildest imagination.

I would say that I am thrilled to bring readers to books and bring them important stories and certainly poetry that speaks to their hearts. * —Ellen Hopkins

*Excerpted from the Simon & Schuster podcast, August 2008

from sonya sones:



Poetry is such a good way to get to the center and truth of things. It's the only way I can say what I really need to say. I love searching for the words, not just any words, but the exact right words, to describe a certain feeling or a moment in time. Besides, the idea of writing a novel in regular prose scares me! Maybe someday, though.

—Sonya Sones

FROM LISA SCHROEDER:

Between Writing and Strawberries

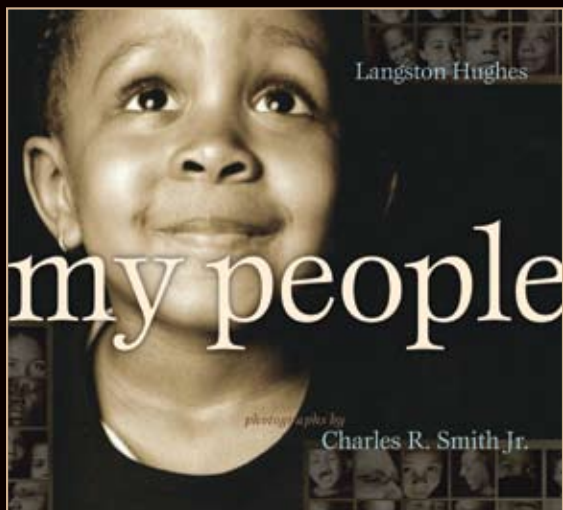
Writing a book reminds me of [the] summer, I picked strawberries to earn money. Every morning I would grab the empty crate and wonder how I could possibly fill it. I tried a bunch of different techniques to see if there was a way to fill my crate faster. In the end, I learned if I show up, work hard, and don't give up, the crate gets filled, just like the book gets written. You might think I would never want to see another strawberry again, but it's quite the opposite. I love strawberries. And you can guess how I feel about writing.

—Lisa Schroeder



Poetry with Pictures

From Photographer Charles R. Smith Jr.: Capturing Langston Hughes's *My People* Through Pictures



How do you translate words into pictures? That was the challenge when I decided to illustrate Langston Hughes's classic poem, "My People." Who should be the "people" in the book? Old? Young? Black? White? Everyone? What should the photos look like? Serious? Playful? Head shots? Full-body shots?

At just thirty-three words total, the poem is a study in simplicity, which attracted me to it in the first place. Langston wrote the poem to celebrate the pride he had for his black brothers and sisters in the late 1920s when blacks were not acknowledged much in society at that time.

To me, the words celebrate black people of differing shades and age, so I wanted

to show skin color as bright as the sun and as dark as the night; I wanted to show the newness of a newborn smile and the wisdom of wrinkled skin. But, more than anything, I simply wanted to show that like any other group of people, black people come in all shapes, sizes, shades, and age, and that each of us is unique. —Charles R. Smith Jr.

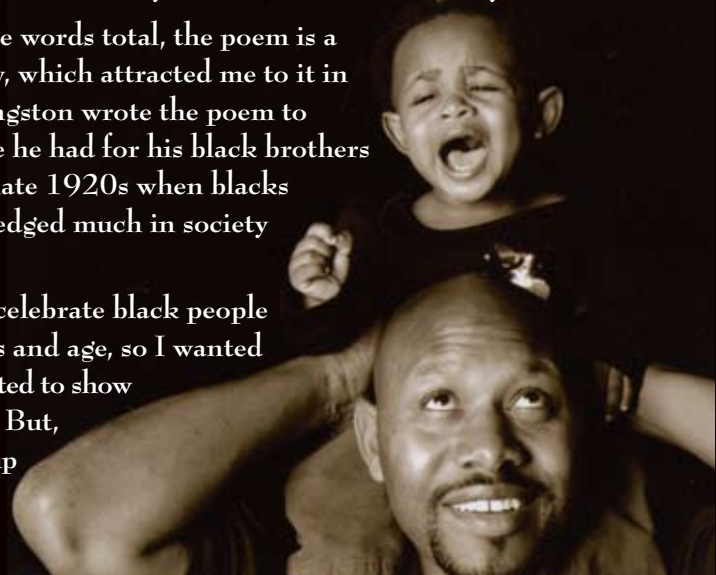


Illustration © 2009 Charles R. Smith Jr.

Deborah Ruddell on *Childhood Memories*

One of the best things about my childhood was not having to do it alone. From day one, I had my twin sister, Robin, at my side — the ideal accessory for a shy kid. Together, we smiled at the good and frowned at the bad, studied ants and made doll clothes out of Kleenex. Today, when I write a poem for kids, I try to go back to those days in my mind.

I especially remember the things that made me laugh and how, every day, the world felt new.

—Deborah Ruddell

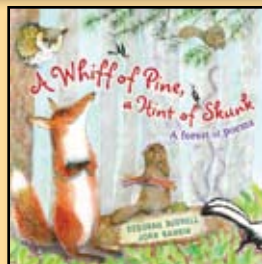
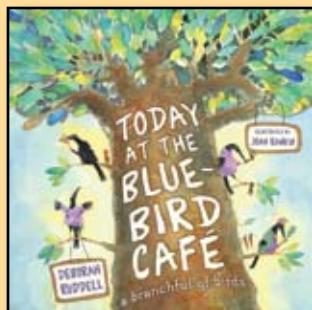


Illustration from *Today at the Bluebird Cafe* © 2007 Joan Rankin

Ann Whitford Paul: *The Book Builder*

A poem is a word picture that comes to life in the reader's head AND heart. My reading in elementary school sometimes got me into trouble. I preferred finishing a book instead of doing my homework.

[Later in life] I was still reading books, only now to my children. We had two sons and two daughters, so you can imagine that our house was always busy. . . The only quiet moments came after supper when everyone was ready for bed. Then we would sit, so close our skins touched, and read together. Those peaceful, cozy times inspired me to write books that other adults and children could share.

—Ann Whitford Paul

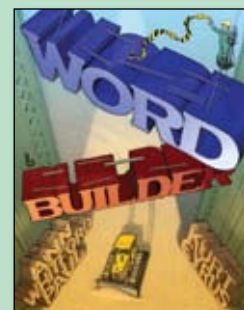
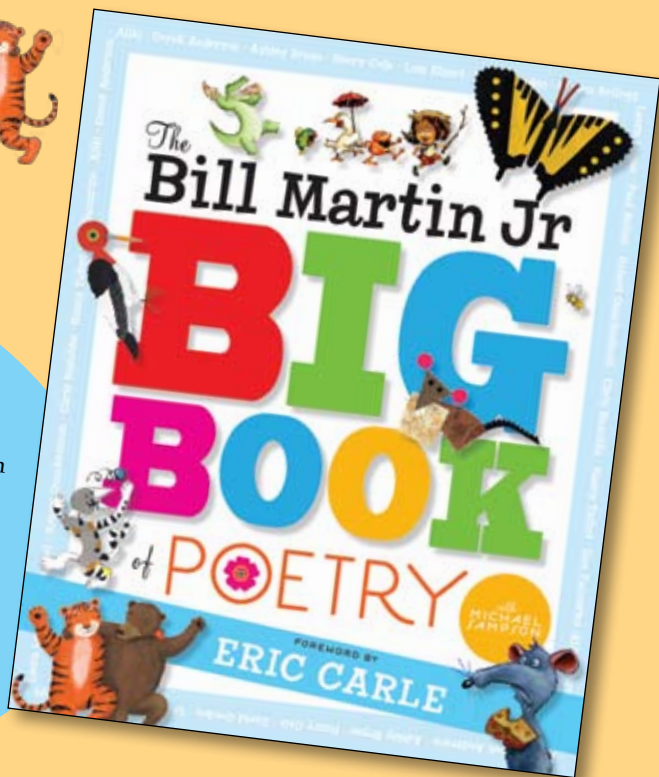
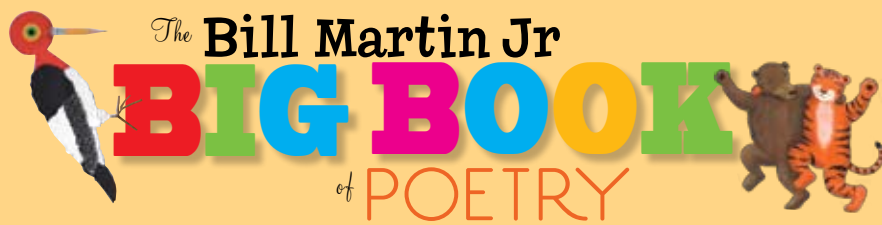


Illustration © 2009 Kurt Cyrus

Rhyme It Up!



A collection that has been years in the making, this beautiful anthology is sure to become a new classic.

Bill Martin Jr is beloved for making poetry popular with children in America. Before his death in 2004, he compiled his favorite poems, and here is that collection, with contributions from everyone from Aileen Fisher and Dennis Lee to Robert Frost and Langston Hughes. The best names in the industry leapt to illustrate this book, which features original artwork from Lois Ehlert, Ashley Bryan, Steven Kellogg, Chris Raschka, and others. This handsome anthology is perfect for kids and adults and is sure to be treasured for years to come.

Betsy Franco says:

I've always seen math as quirky, beautiful, creative and sassy



People had often called my work too far outside the box. After *Mathematickles!* That no longer happened. I like to set a concept on its head, blast open genres and combine elements and that aren't normally mixed together, such as math and poetry or counting and birdsongs. A poem about "one hundred" turned into one hundred poems in *Counting Our Way to the 100th Day!* Fifteen years of observing geometry in nature became *Bees, Snails & Peacock Tails*. What's my secret hope? I hope that mathematicians become poets and poets become mathematicians after reading my books. I've seen it happen over and over. It could happen to you.

—Betsy Franco

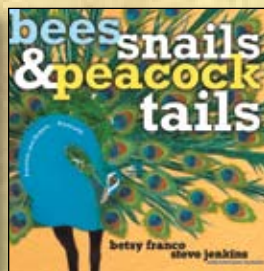
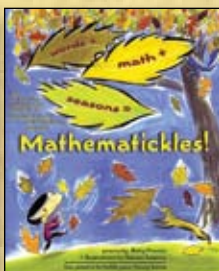
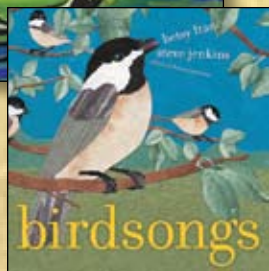


Illustration from *Pond Circle* © 2009 Stefano Vitale

New & Noteworthy Poetry Titles

A WHIFF OF PINE, A HINT OF SKUNK
BY DEBORAH RUDELL
ISBN: 9781416942115

BELLA & BEAN
BY REBECCA DOTLICH
ISBN: 9780689856167

BOOGIE KNIGHTS
BY LISA WHEELER
ISBN: 9780689876394

DINOTHESAURUS: PREHISTORIC POEMS AND PAINTINGS
BY DOUGLAS FLORIAN
ISBN: 9781416979784

GOING, GOING, GONE!
AND OTHER SILLY DILLY SPORTS SONGS
BY ALAN KATZ
ISBN: 9781416906964

IDENTICAL
BY ELLEN HOPKINS
ISBN: 97814169350059

MY PEOPLE
BY LANGSTON HUGHES
ISBN: 9781416935407

POND CIRCLE
BY BETSY FRANCO
ISBN: 9781416940210

SLEEPSONG
BY GEORGE ELLA LYON
ISBN: 9780689869730

THE BILL MARTIN JR BIG BOOK OF POETRY
VARIOUS
ISBN: 9781416939719

THE UNDERWEAR SALESMAN
BY J. PATRICK LEWIS
ISBN: 9780689853258

WHAT'S THE WEATHER INSIDE?
BY KARMA WILSON
ISBN: 9781416900924

WHO'S IN THE BATHROOM?
BY JEANNE WILLIS
ISBN: 9781416935162

WORD BUILDER
BY ANN WHITFORD PAUL
ISBN: 9781416939818

Complete Backlist Poetry Title Listing

FOR YOUNGER & MIDDLE-GRADE READERS

A CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES
BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON
ISBN: 9780689823824

AMERICA AT WAR
BY LEE BENNETT HOPKINS
ISBN: 9781416918325

ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME
BY JULIA DURANGO
ISBN: 9780689862526

**ASHLEY BRYAN'S ABC OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN POETRY**
BY ASHLEY BRYAN
ISBN: 9780689840456

BEEES, SNAILS AND PEACOCK TAILS
BY BETSY FRANCO
ISBN: 9781416903864

BIRDSONGS
BY BETSY FRANCO
ISBN: 9780689877773

BOOGIE KNIGHTS
BY LISA WHEELER
ISBN: 9780689876394

CASEY AT THE BAT
BY ERNEST L. THAYER
ISBN: 9780689854941

CASTAWAY CATS
BY LISA WHEELER
ISBN: 9780689862328

CHACHA CHIMPS
BY JULIE DURANGO
ISBN: 9780689864568

COUNTING OUR WAY TO THE 100TH DAY
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ISBN: 9780689847936

DOODLE DANDIES
BY J. PATRICK LEWIS
ISBN: 9780689848896

ELLINGTON WAS NOT A STREET
BY NTOZAKE SHANGE
ISBN: 9780689828843

FIREFLIES AT MIDNIGHT
BY MARILYN SINGER
ISBN: 9780689824920

GIVE YOURSELF TO THE RAIN
BY MARGARET WISE BROWN
ISBN: 9780689833441

**HERE'S WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU
CAN'T FIND YOUR SHOE**
BY ANDREA PERRY
ISBN: 9780689830679

HURRY, HURRY, MARY DEAR
BY N.M. BODECKER
ISBN: 9780689817700

IF: A FATHER'S ADVICE TO HIS SON
BY RUDYARD KIPLING
ISBN: 9780689877995

IF I WERE IN CHARGE OF THE WORLD
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IF THE SHOE FITS
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KNOCK ON WOOD
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MARVELOUS MATH
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MATHEMATICKLES!
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OOPS!
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POETRY FROM A TO Z
BY PAUL B. JANEKZKO
ISBN: 9780027476729

PUT YOUR EYES UP HERE
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ISBN: 9781416918028

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ISBN: 9780689833762

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BY KARLA KUSKIN
ISBN: 9780689847332

SOFT HAY WILL CATCH YOU
COMPILED BY SANDFORD LYNE
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THE PLACE MY WORDS ARE LOOKING FOR
BY PAUL B. JANEKZKO
ISBN: 9780027476712

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY
BY MARY HOWITT
ISBN: 9780689852893

THE TREE IS OLDER THAN YOU ARE
BY NAOMI SHIHAB NYE
ISBN: 9780689820878

—continued on next page

Complete Backlist Poetry Title Listing

—continued from page 7

FOR YOUNGER & MIDDLE-GRADE READERS

<p>THIS IS THE VAN THAT DAD CLEANED BY LISA CAMPBELL ERNST ISBN: 9780689861901</p> <p>TODAY AT THE BLUEBIRD CAFE BY DEBORAH RUDDELL ISBN: 9780689871535</p> <p>TREASURY OF MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES BY LINDA YEATMAN ISBN: 9780671501181</p> <p>TWIST: YOGA POEMS BY JANET S. WONG ISBN: 9780689873942</p>	<p>WAITING TO WALTZ BY CYNTHIA RYLANT ISBN: 9780689842924</p> <p>WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A SHOE? BY BEATRICE SCHENK DE REGNIERS ISBN: 9780689812316</p> <p>WHO SAID BOO? BY PHYLLIS ROOT ISBN: 9780689854088</p> <p>WHO WANTS A CHEAP RHINOCEROS? BY SHEL SILVERSTEIN ISBN: 9780689851131</p>	<p>UNCLES AND ANTLERS BY LISA WHEELER ISBN: 9780689864698</p> <p>WAY FAR AWAY ON A WILD SAFARI BY JAN PECK ISBN: 9781416900726</p> <p>WHEN YOU ARE HAPPY BY EILEEN SPINELLI ISBN: 9780689862519</p> <p>WONDERFUL WORDS BY LEE BENNETT HOPKINS ISBN: 9780689835889</p>
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From *The Bill Martin Jr Big Book of Poetry*
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FOR OLDER READERS

<p>BEHIND THE WHEEL BY JANET S. WONG ISBN: 9780689825316</p> <p>BURNED BY ELLEN HOPKINS ISBN: 9781416903543</p> <p>CRANK BY ELLEN HOPKINS ISBN: 9780689865190</p> <p>FAR FROM YOU BY LISA SCHROEDER ISBN: 9781416975069</p> <p>FREE STALLION: POEMS BY AMBER TAMBLYN ISBN: 9781416902591</p> <p>GLASS BY ELLEN HOPKINS ISBN: 9781416940906</p>	<p>I AM THE DARKER BROTHER BY ARNOLD ADOFF ISBN: 9780689808692</p> <p>I FEEL A LITTLE JUMPY AROUND YOU VARIOUS ISBN: 9780689813412</p> <p>I HEART YOU, YOU HAUNT ME BY LISA SCHROEDER ISBN: 9781416955207</p> <p>IMPULSE BY ELLEN HOPKINS ISBN: 9781416903567</p> <p>LOOSE THREADS BY LORIE ANN GROVER ISBN: 9780689844195</p> <p>ON POINTE BY LORIE ANN GROVER ISBN: 9781416978268</p>	<p>ONE OF THOSE HIDEOUS BOOKS WHERE THE MOTHER DIES BY SONYA SONES ISBN: 9781416907886</p> <p>THE SPACE BETWEEN OUR FOOTSTEPS BY NAOMI SHIHAB NYE ISBN: 9780689812330</p> <p>THIS SAME SKY BY NAOMI SHIHAB NYE ISBN: 9780689806308</p> <p>TRUE BELIEVER BY VIRGINIA EUWER WOLFF ISBN: 9780689852886</p> <p>WHAT MY GIRLFRIEND DOESN'T KNOW BY SONYA SONES ISBN: 9780689876035</p> <p>WHAT MY MOTHER DOESN'T KNOW BY SONYA SONES ISBN: 9780689855535</p>
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Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing

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Atheneum Books for
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Beach Lane Books
Libros Para Niños
Little Simon
Little Simon Inspirations
Margaret K. McElderry Books
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