

Poetry

Alderson, Sue Ann. *Pond Seasons* (illus. Ann Blades). Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1997. ISBN 0888992831.

For those of us who live near ponds, whether in city parks or in the country, these poems of animal life will evoke scenes of familiarity. Children have a special feeling for animals and new life, making this book a favourite. The animals are common Canadian pond creatures which many children have actually seen. The watercolours bring the pond inhabitants to life, while the texture of the language melds with the illustrations. This book should be in all Canadian classrooms.

☞ Related Reading: *Flit, Flutter, Fly, The Great Frog Race, Mammalabilia, Insectlopedia* (animals)

Andreae, Giles. *Rumble in the Jungle* (illus. David Wojtowycz). Toronto: Scholastic Inc., 1996. ISBN 0590024329.

Elephanting elephants and galloping gazelles take the reader on an energetic, rhyming safari into the jungle. Many wild animals who live there are introduced in a humorous way. Children consider it a favourite among read-alouds and memorize the text so that they can get into the swing of things along with the chimpanzee. Brilliant illustrations bring the jungle to life.

☞ Related Reading: *Junglewalk* (jungle); *Voices from the Wild, The Beauty of the Beast, Asana and the Animals* (animal poetry)

Chase, Edith Newlin. *Waters* (illus. Ron Broda). Richmond Hill, ON: North Winds Press, 1993. ISBN 0590742077.

Paper sculptures and rhyming text take us across Canada to illustrate how water is part of our natural habitat and our wildlife. Pictures and words show how water is necessary to living creatures. Because it is Canadian, children will identify with the animals and can look for the provincial flowers which are in each scene.

☞ Related Reading: *Water Music* (water poems); *Water Dance, A Drop of Water* (water in many forms); *Fishing For A Dream* (water lullabies)

Frazer, Marla. *Hush, Little Baby*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1999. ISBN 0152014292.

Humorous illustrations, depicting early life in America, contribute a new interpretation to this well-known and often-sung lullaby. Attempting to comfort a howling baby, a loving family returns time and again to a peddler, hoping that he possesses the solution to their problem.

☞ Related Reading: *Row, Row, Row Your Boat, Hush, Silent Night* (Jeffers); *Silent Night* (Granfield); *Hush Little Baby* (Long); *Fireflies, Fireflies, Light My Way, O Canada* (songs)

Godwin, Laura. *Barnyard Prayers* (illus. Brian Selznick). New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2000. ISBN 078682302X.

A young boy pretends that his farm animals are real and he imagines a simple prayer poem for each of them to recite. Each prayer is unique and reflects the true nature of the animal for which it is intended. The vibrant illustrations show the attachment of this boy to each creature both large and small.

☞ Related Reading: *Prayers from the Ark* (prayers); *On The Farm* (barnyard animals)

Hindley, Judy. *A Song of Colors* (illus. Mike Bostock). Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 1998. ISBN 0763603201.

This collection of colour poems will open one's eyes to the colours in our world. The words and the illustrations depict various shades of each colour. The sophisticated language of the poetry has a place in the minds of young readers and listeners. It will expand their repertoire of thinking of how colour fits into their world. It is a book that many children will ask to hear again and again.

☞ Related Reading: *Hailstones and Halibut Bones, Color* (Rosetti) (colour)

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *Climb Into My Lap: First Poems to Read Together* (illus. Kathryn Brown). New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998. ISBN 0689807155.

This collection of poems will thrill poetry lovers and entice others to become lovers of poetry. The selection and the illustrations will appeal to the young-at-heart. There are funny poems, people poems, make-believe poems, finger game poems and more. There is a table of contents and three different types of index, making it teacher-friendly. This collection has a magical, irresistible quality to it that will keep it in children's laps rather than on bookshelves.

☞ Related Reading: *Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young, Jumpety Bumpety Hop, Animal Crackers, Whizz Bang Orang-utan, Rhymes for the Very Young* (poetry for the young)

Huck, Charlotte (ed.). *Secret Places* (illus. Lindsay Barrett George). New York: Greenwillow Books, 1993. ISBN 0688116698.

For those of us who have had secret places for our special thoughts, this book will evoke memories. For children who have not yet experienced these delightful escapades, this book will provide inspiration. This poetry collection will reach into the hearts of children and the imagination of youth. The vibrant paintings will carry children to their own imaginative realms, making this book an invitation to dream.

☞ Related Reading: *Secret Dawn, Days Are Like This: A Collection of Small Poems* (special places and times)

Hughes, Shirley. *Rhymes For Annie Rose*. London: Random House, 1995. ISBN 037031980X.

A collection of poems that entertain young children, created by a brilliant writer, *Rhymes for Annie Rose* takes us into the funny, imaginative, delightful world of young children. Made even more inviting by the warm, amusing, comforting illustrations, Annie Rose's adventures from "splishing, splashing in the rain" to her "Night Flight" are enjoyed and understood by the young and young-at-heart alike.

☞ Related Reading: *Out and About* (author); *Rainy Day Rhymes*, *In for Winter*, *Out for Spring* (outdoor poetry)

Lee, Dennis. *The Ice Cream Store* (illus. David McPhail). Toronto: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd., 1991. ISBN 0002237490.

Jam-packed with dozens of poems from the ridiculous to the more thoughtful (although there are few in this category), this book demonstrates Dennis Lee's wizardry with words. These are poems that children love to recite because they're funny and zany and compel them to move to the rhythm of the language. David McPhail's delightful paintings add appeal and charm to each poem.

☞ Related Reading: *Don't Eat Spiders*, *Jelly Belly*, *Garbage Delight*, *Alligator Pie* (fun poetry)

Lindbergh, Reeve. *The Circle of Days* (illus. Cathie Felstead). Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 1998. ISBN 0763603570.

Reeve Lindbergh has adapted a hymn by St. Francis of Assisi. This poem gives thanks for the beauty of our world. It thanks the Lord for family, animals and the necessities of life. It shows children the very things in our world that we should respect and honour. The illustrations are splendid in their depiction of our surrounding world. Done in watercolour, gouache and collage, they display the myriad wonders of our world.

☞ Related Reading: *To Everything There Is A Season*, *Grandad's Prayers Of The Earth*, *Home Sweet Home*, *Brother Eagle*, *Sister Sky* (spiritual)

Marzollo, Jean. *Sun Song* (illus. Laura Regan). New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1995. ISBN 0064434761.

Exquisite paintings and poetic verse celebrate the sun's greatness in sustaining life and giving comfort and warmth to the natural world. From sunrise to sunset, animals and plants respond to the sun's rays on a summer's day. A wake-up song to the turtles and moles, a soft, warm touch on a robin's wing, a gentle kiss on a child's face, a hushed whisper to the sleepy hills - expressive language that extols the sun's powerful, yet peaceful gift to the earth.

☞ Related Reading: *Grandfather Twilight*, *On the Same Day in March* (appreciation of the cycle of time)

Mavor, Salley (ed.). *You and Me: Poems of Friendship*. New York: Orchard Books, 1997. ISBN 0531300455.

There are no words to adequately describe the richness of Salley Mavor's fabric relief artwork. Before one even reads this wonderful collection of friendship poems, the illustrations have to be given their due appreciation. This book will captivate those who have enjoyed their friends in a myriad of ways. Who says friends have to be people? These poems will expand one's definition of friendship in a wonderful way.

☞ Related Reading: *Halfway to Your House, Poems About People: Someone I Like* (friendship)

Miranda, Anne. *To Market, To Market* (illus. Janet Stevens). New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1997. ISBN 0152000356.

An extension of the familiar rhyme, this hilarious story describes how making lunch becomes a nightmare when the unruly groceries - a pig, a hen, a goat and others - wreak havoc in an old lady's house. Laughter erupts when you read aloud this book. Wildly humorous illustrations add to the chaos in this story.

☞ Related Reading: *Hickory Dickory Dock, Each Peach Pear Plum, Down by the Station, Come Back, Jack* (nursery rhyme variants)

Numeroff, Laura. *Sometimes I Wonder If Poodles Like Noodles* (illus. Tim Bowers). New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999. ISBN 0689805632.

Laura Numeroff is known for her sense of humour, as in *If You Give A Mouse A Cookie*. This collection of playful poems helps her live up to her name. Children will identify with the poems about family, friends and everyday experiences. The illustrations are full-page and double-page spreads, not always seen in books of poetry. The richness of the oil paintings adds authenticity to the humour of the poems. This is bound to be a favourite of children of all ages.

☞ Related Reading: *Who's Been Sleeping in my Porridge, A Light in the Attic, Falling Up, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Wish You Were Here and I Wasn't: A Book of Poems and Pictures for Globetrotters* (nonsense)

Opie, Iona (ed.). *Here Comes Mother Goose* (illus. Rosemary Wells). Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 1999. ISBN 0763606839.

This sequel to *My Very First Mother Goose*, completed by the same team, is delightful. Containing more than fifty-five nursery rhymes, it is brightly illustrated with a large font for young readers. This book will be an instant favourite because it invites children to read and reread their favourite nursery rhymes along with some less-familiar ones. It is a nursery rhyme collection that children should not miss.

☞ Related Reading: *Babushka's Mother Goose, My Very First Mother Goose, Mother Nature, The Classic Mother Goose, Sing A Song of Mother Goose*

Paladino, Catherine. *Land, Sea and Sky: Poems to Celebrate the Earth*. Boston: Joy Street Books, 1993. ISBN 0316688924.

Here is a collection of poems to celebrate the land, sea and sky. The spectacular photographs and poetry inspire one to take a closer look at the world around us. There is poetry about snowstorms, sunrise, seashore, whales, trees and mountains. Authors such as Emily Dickinson, Lillian Moore and Aileen Fisher are featured in this book.

☞ Related Reading: *Voices on the Wind*, *Til All the Stars Have Fallen*, *Midnight Dance of the Snowshoe Hare* (nature poems)

Prelutsky, Jack (ed.). *The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury* (illus. Meilo So). New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999. ISBN 0679893148.

One hundred thirty-seven poets have contributed to this collection of more than two hundred poems. Appealing to the eye and scintillating to the tongue, this volume of poetry belongs in every primary classroom. Award-winning Jack Prelutsky has delivered another success. Meilo So's watercolours are youthful, almost child-like, which will engage young readers and listeners alike.

☞ Related Reading: *Talking Like the Rain*, *The Hutchinson Treasury of Children's Poetry* (poetry collections)

Turner, Ann. *Angel Hide and Seek* (illus. Lois Ehlert). New York: HarperCollins, 1998. ISBN 0060270853.

Angels can be found everywhere, especially in nature. Each poem will delight the ear as the imaginative text describes how angels are part of our everyday world. Each poem will delight the eye as the compelling illustrations have us looking for the angels. As butterflies, leaves, and fire evoke the images of angels, we look at nature with a more discerning eye.

☞ Related Reading: *Doodle Dandies*, *Rebus Riot* (imagery)

Yolen, Jane. *Snow, Snow: Winter Poems for Children* (photo. Jason Stemple). Honesdale, PA: Wordsong, Boyds Mills Press, 1998. ISBN 1563977214.

Snow lovers will love this book. Others will still appreciate the beauty of snow's possibilities. Fortunately, most children love the look of snow, the feel of it and the taste of it. The illustrations and the vivid language of the poems will certainly appeal to the five senses. One can almost feel the stark coldness of some of the scenes and want to touch the feathery softness of other scenes. It is an imaginative array of snow-filled poems.

☞ Related Reading: *Water Music*, *Once Upon Ice and Other Frozen Poems* (author)

