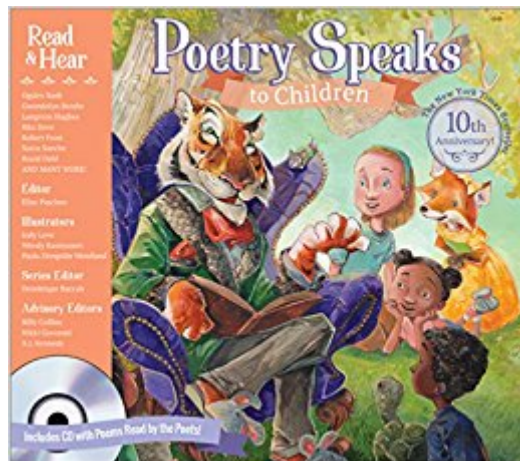


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Poetry Speaks To Children (Book & CD) (A Poetry Speaks Experience)



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller! In the tradition of *Poetry Speaks*, the anthology named a Best Book of 2002 by School Library Journal, and praised by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer as "a volume to delight longtime lovers of poetry and to spark new love for poetry, especially among the young," Sourcebooks MediaFusion is proud to introduce the joy of the written and spoken word in *Poetry Speaks to Children*. Parents, educators, librarians, and poetry enthusiasts have wondered for years how to get children really interested in poetry. Until now, there hasn't been a collection of poems and poets that spoke directly to that elusive audience. *Poetry Speaks to Children* cracks through that barrier by packaging the best poems by the best authors along with a CD-making the engrossing and often mischievous verses come alive in the voices of many of the creators. *Poetry Speaks to Children* reaches into the world of poetry and pulls out the elements children love: rhyme, rhythm, fun and, every once in a while, a little mischief. More than 90 poems, for children ages six and up, celebrate the written word and feature a star-studded lineup of beloved poets, including: Roald Dahl; J. R. R. Tolkien; Robert Frost; Gwendolyn Brooks; Ogden Nash; John Ciardi; Langston Hughes; Sonia Sanchez; Seamus Heaney; Canada's best-loved children's poet, Dennis Lee; Rita Dove; Billy Collins; Nikki Giovanni and X. J. Kennedy. On the accompanying CD, 50 of the poems are brought to life--most read by the poets themselves--allow the reader to hear the words as the poets intended. Hear Gwendolyn Brooks growl her rhyming verse poem "The Tiger Who Wore White Gloves, or, What You Are You Are" with verve and inflection-relaying the story of the striped cat who "rushed to the jungle fair for something fine to wear," much to the hoots of his jungle peers. Amid jeers, sneers and sighs, the tiger eventually learns to be comfortable in his own striped skin (or fur as it were!). Follow Ogden Nash as he tells of the brave little Isabel, who "didn't worry, didn't scream or scurry" when confronted with a ravenous bear, a one-eyed giant or a troublesome doctor. Her clever solutions to problems ("She turned the witch into milk and drank her") will keep even the most reluctant readers interested. Listen to James Berry, who quells a little girl's anxieties about her color by celebrating the marriage of "night and light," emphasizing how all colors are necessary in nature, in "Okay, Brown Girl, Okay." Turn the page and tune in . . . kids won't be the only ones hooked!

Book Information

Series: A Poetry Speaks Experience

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks MediaFusion; Har/Com edition (October 18, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1402203292

ISBN-13: 978-1402203299

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 90 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,783 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous #891 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-8 — a fine, basic collection. Approximately half of the 97 selections are read or performed on the accompanying CD. The book provides a mix of adult writers (Rita Dove, Seamus Heaney, and Billy Collins, among others) and those whose work is specifically for children, such as X. J. Kennedy and Mary Ann Hoberman. Topics include childhood, animals, nonsense poems, and humor (including C. K. Williams's *Gas*, which dwells on the fact that **FARTING IS FORBIDDEN!**). The three illustrators have captured the different tones of the selections, from a comic portrait of the Jabberwock slayer wearing a colander and wielding a plunger and the wailing children in William Stafford's *First Grade*, to the moving paintings of a girl with flowers echoing the natural images of James Berry's *Okay, Brown Girl, Okay*. The CD gives children the opportunity to hear several of the poets, such as Robert Frost reading *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* and Langston Hughes reading *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*. They hear a variety of accents and dialects — an Irish lilt, New England inflections, or James Berry's lilting Jamaican-British voice. Readers of Roald Dahl's books will enjoy hearing him read *The Dentist and the Crocodile*, and fans of *The Lord of the Rings* books and movies will appreciate hearing Tolkien read *Frodo's Song in Bree*. Joy Harjo frames her *Eagle Poem* with a haunting vocalization that echoes its serious tone. — Barbara Chatton, College of Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 3-5. Teachers will celebrate this wide-ranging collection of both classic and contemporary poetry, including selections from Robert Bly and Rainer Maria Rilke, who aren't often included in anthologies for youth. There's little organization, although similarly themed selections sometimes appear together (the witches' lines from *Macbeth* come just after Karla Kuskin's "Knitted Things,"

also about a witch, for example). Almost every poem appears on a heavily illustrated page, and the literal, cheerful, color illustrations of animals and young children often overwhelm the imagery in the words. The pictures are handsome, but they seem aimed mostly at a picture-book audience. Many selections, such as Mary Ann Hoberman's "Rabbit," are appropriate for picture-book readers, but a large proportion of the poems will be most enjoyed by older elementary students, who will be able to focus on the words and appreciate the magnificent selection. A CD containing audio tracks of the poems being read aloud, in many cases by the poets themselves, rounds out the package. Gillian Engberg

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Again, I adore all illustrations by Judy Love. Her ability to have all creatures/characters show such a range of expression is a delight. I often give this as a baby shower gift, and parents tend to comment that not only do they love the illustrations and of course the selection of poems, but also the ability to have their kids exposed to poetry from the start. Several friends have said their kids listen to the CD as they fall asleep.

I gave this book/CD to my daughter for her 6th birthday party. After the party while she played with the neighbors I was exhausted and just wanted to take a nap. Before I did though I put this 68 minute CD of poetry on and found it to be very entertaining and relaxing. 29 of the readers are the poets reading their own words. Now my daughter has been listening to it every night before bed and often I play it early in the morning to gently wake her before kindergarten. There are some classic recorded poems here such as "The Raven" by Poe, "Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll, "The Tyger" by William Blake and "Casey at the Bat" by Earnst L. Thayer. There are also some very nice multicultural poems recorded such as "Eagle Poem" by Joy Harjo, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes, and perhaps my favorite poem in the collection "Okay, Brown Girl, Okay" by James Berry which is reassuring, touching, and can speak to everyone about what it's like to be different among other people. Not all of the poems are included on the CD--some are just included in the book. Familiar poems and poets in the book only are "from Macbeth" by Shakespeare, "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" by Ogden Nash, "Frodo's Song in Bree" by J.R.R. Tolkien, "The Land of Counterpane" by Robert Louis Stevenson, from "The Bed Book" by Sylvia Plath, "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" by Eugene Field, and "Letter to a Bee" by Emily Dickinson among many others. In all there are 95 poems. Some of them recorded and/or published for the first time. The illustrations are delightful and done by three different artists with different styles. They are Judy Love, Wendy Rasmussen, and Paula Zinngrabe Wendland. This book/CD combo is a winner. It's very

educational, fun, and will be enjoyed by the whole family.

I got this book because of previous reviews and the CD. However, the CD is a big disappointment. The poems were read by a lot of different people, presumably, the writers. This has both up and down sides. Although the authors may understand the poetry better, some authors don't have a clear voice. Additionally, the CD has a pretty high background noise. It was as if the poems were read and tape-recorded at home and then pieced together by the producer. Otherwise, the poems are fun and my 4 year old son loves me reading the poems to him.

This was a fun book to listen to. The only reason it received four stars is due to the age appropriate material. I would recommend this for seven and older. Some of the very witty poems have some material a little old for my four year old. Otherwise...wonderful

I've looked at many anthologies of poetry for children. This one is by far the best. It has many poems I've never encountered before, and they range from lyrical to funny, from structured by meter and rhyme to blank verse. Three of my favorites: #4 from More Opposites, by Richard Wilbur, starts: "What is the opposite of pillow?/The answer, child, is armadillo./"Oh, don't talk nonsense!" you protest./ However, if you tried to rest/ Your head upon the creature, you/ Will find that what I say is true." "The Reason I Like Chocolate," by Nikki Giovanni: "The reason I like chocolate/ is I can lick my fingers/ and nobody tells me I'm not polite// I especially like scary movies/ 'cause I can snuggle with my mommy/ or my big sister and they don't laugh// I like to cry sometimes 'cause / everybody says , "What's the matter/ don't cry"// and I like books/ for all those reasons/ but mostly 'cause they just make me/ happy// and I really like/ to be happy." And "The Unwritten," by W.S. Merwin, begins, "Inside this pencil/ crouch words that have never been written/ never been spoken/ never been taught// they're hiding/ they're awake in there/ dark in the dark/ hearing us/ but they won't come out/ not for love not for time not for fire" and concludes, "every pencil in the world/ is like this." My kids, who are 13, 9, and 7, really enjoy this book and CD. I suspect that many (though not all) of the poems would be over the heads of preschoolers, but it's certainly a book to grow with! My only quibble is that the book presents only excerpts of three longer poems: "The Raven" by Poe, and "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" and "The Adventures of Isabel" by Ogden Nash. You should also be aware that not all the poems are on the CD; there are 95 in the book, but only 52 on the CD. Still, I'd consider this a "must have" for the bookshelf of any parent or teacher!

I bought this book for my two kids, age 10 and 7. Both constantly ask for this cd when we are riding in the car. We also have a Shel Silverstein cd but I wanted to expand their exposure to poetry beyond humorous rhymes. Since then I have purchased this book for many kids, from a bright 4 year old up through a 12 year old. All the feedback I have gotten has been very positive. It makes an excellent gift and is enjoyable for both adults and children.

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