



A Pizza the Size of the Sun

Jack Prelutsky , James Stevenson

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Jack Prelutsky is widely acknowledged as the poet laureate of the younger generation. (And many people would happily see him crowned with no age qualification.) *The New Kid on the Block* and *Something Big Has Been Here* are household words wherever there are kids.

Here is another wondrously rich, varied, clever - and always funny - collection. Meet Miss Misinformation, Swami Gourami, and Gladiola Gloppe (and her Soup Shoppe), and delight in a backwards poem, a poem that ever ends, and scores of others that will be changed, read, and loved by readers of every age. The Prelutsky-Stevenson duo is irresistible. Whether you begin at the beginning or just open the book at random, you won't stop smiling.

A Pizza the Size of the Sun Details


Date : Published September 16th 1996 by Greenwillow Books

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Author : Jack Prelutsky , James Stevenson

Format : Hardcover 160 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Humor, Picture Books, Nonfiction, Funny, Middle Grade, Juvenile, Anthologies, Collections, Classics

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From Reader Review A Pizza the Size of the Sun for online ebook

Michelle Rachitoff says

1. Awards the book has received (if any): No awards
 2. Appropriate grade level(s): 1st grade to 5th grade
 3. Original 3-line summary: This is a collection of poems that vary in length. The illustrations are very simple and in black and white. The students will be able find poems that are well within their reading ability and also find ones that will challenge them as well.
 4. Original 3-line review: Each of the poems vary in length, but all the poems will have the students laughing. It is a great way to introduce poems to older students that aren't nursery rhymes. The illustrations are in black and white, so students will be able to focus on the text of the poem instead of the illustrations. This is an excellent addition to classroom library.
 5. 2-3 possible in-class uses: The titular poem, "A Pizza the Size of the Sun" would be a great way to introduce this book the students. There can be a "pizza day" in the classroom where students can read the poem as a class while eating pizza and creating their own poems. Pizza can also be tied in with a a mathematics or science lesson, so the theme of pizza can span for the entire day. Since this is a collection of poems, students in older grades can create their own class poetry book with their own black and white illustrations that they can keep in the classroom library.
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Zoe says

I really liked this book! it is a poem book 1/2 rhyme and 1/2 free verse. my favorite poem was Eye balls for sale! here it goes (for people who havent read it):

Eye balls for sale!
Fresh eye balls for sale!
Delicious, nutritious,
not moldy or stale.
Eye balls from manticores,
orgs, and elves,
fierce dragon eyeballs
that cook by themselves.

Eyeballs srevd cold!
Eyeballs served hot!
If you like eyeballs,
then this is the spot.
Ladle a glass full,
a bowlful or pail-
Eyeballs! fresh eye balls!
Fresh eyeballs for sale!

And that is all!

Natalie says

This is a great poetry collection for kids -- I read it in elementary school, and the illustrations and sheer absurdity of the poems drew me in, along with the end-rhymes. It served as a great introduction to poetry, and I loved having these poems read aloud to me.

Dayna Stechel says

1. Awards: none

2. Appropriate grade level(s): Prek through fourth grade

3. Original 3-line summary: This book is a poem turned into a story about a kid who is so excited for his pizza to be ready. He goes into detail about all the different toppings he put on the pizza. He explains the pizza to be huge and “the size of the sun.”

4. Original 3-line review: I like this poem book is a cute, light hearted story to use with the different grades. I think they will all like the idea that it has to do with a giant pizza. It’s good the poem isn’t too long for the younger one’s attention span, but it’s a good length to get them started.

5. 2-3 possible in-class uses:

- with the younger grades, you can have them make their own little versions of the pizza using play-doh for art
 - You can have paper pizzas and use them during a math lesson by having the students count the toppings on the pizza.
 - Have them draw their own pizzas.
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Edna Velasquez says

Awards: None

Grade Level: First through Fifth Grade

Summary: This is a great poetry for students that is filled with poems about family, food, animals, and etc. This poem/book is about a kid who is excited for his pizza to be ready and he goes into detail about all the different toppings that he puts on his pizza. He explains how the pizza is huge and compares it to the sun.

Review: This poem is really cute and I like how intriguing it is with its descriptions of having the readers guess what will come next throughout the stanzas. The title of this book caught my attention because i love pizza! And it was more than what I expected it to be. I like the idea of how it is a giant pizza and how the illustrations are in black and white so students are able to focus more on the text. This book is a great way to introduce poetry to students.

In Class Uses 1. There could be a math lesson by incorporating pizza or have paper plate pizzas and have them count the toppings on the pizza.

2. Have the younger children create their mini pizza using play dough.
 3. Have the students create their own personal pizza.
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Ashley Carter says

This book written by Jack Prelutsky, a well-known author of children's poetry, is a collection of poems that will keep any reader entertained. If you have a group of students not interested in poetry, I would highly suggest introducing this book to your class. Each poem along with the illustrations are truly imaginative. From a circular poem that never ends to a poem about a furry, scaley elephant, there is something in here for every reader. This books would be great for K-2, but older elementary students will also find it amusing. They will have fun trying to read the poem "Backwards Forwards Silly Rhyme" that is written completely backward.

Since this is a collection of poems, you could continually refer back to this book depending on your lesson. If teaching about rhyming patterns, the poem named after the title is a great example of an AABB pattern. You could also use this poem to teach about other literary topics such as descriptive language.

Kamilah says

A Pizza the Size of the Sun was a great poetry book that was filled with poems about animals, bugs, and family just to name a few. This book would be great for students in grades 2-4. It's expressive, entertaining and the students will have a great time listening to the teacher read this book. The whole book was great but while reading I decided to pick my favorite ones. Walking in a Circle was nice because the words were in a circle. I thought it would be a great book for students to read individually because they aren't reading standard left to right print. Also, Backwards Forwards Silly Rhyme is a great poem because the words are scrambled together and students would have to figure out the words. This would be perfect for group work or me to read to them if they're having a hard time understanding.

I am Your Mirror Image is another fun one to do in groups or as a read aloud because the words are written as if you were looking in the mirror. I think students would have fun reading the words. A Triangular Tale is written in the shape of a triangle, this is another poem that will get their attention just from looking at it. My Mother Makes me Chicken is an extremely short poem that I can ask students to read just so they can see that not all poems have to be long. You can say what you need in two sentences! I'm All Mixed Up is a fun poem because of how the words are, some words are lowercase letters mixed with uppercase letters this would make reading the poem entertaining. Rat for lunch would be good for groups and having students work on reading with expression. There are a bunch of exclamation marks for the bold part in the poem so I would like to see students using expression while reading. Lastly, A Dizzy Little Duzzle is a poem that will make you dizzy! The print is written in all caps with loops and curves that will have students engaged if they can make it through the whole poem. This book is most definitely one that I will be using in my classroom.

Caitlin says

This collection of poems is not only humorous but very relatable to students. Prelutsky does a great job sharing different types of poems for students to read. This collection is a great one to share with students when they are learning to write poetry, as the poems are understandable for students and demonstrate how simple it is to write a poem. As I think about teaching poetry next year (we didn't get to it this year), this was

the first poetry book to come to mind since I loved it as a kid!

Mariah Leach says

A pizza the Size of the Sun is a book made up of different poems rather than one long poem that creates a normal story. The Poem I was walking in a Circle puts a lot of emphasis on the shape of the poem. Since this poem is about a circle the line are placed in a way the creates a shape of a circle.

Another poem in it is called "A Pizza the Size of the Sun" which is about a kid who wants to make a pizza that is as bi gas the sun. It is made up of four stanzas with four lines in each stanza. This poem uses many different types of strategies such as repetition of "a pizza" within the first stanza. There are many other good poem within this book like Eyeballs for sale and We Are Doddies that make this an excellent book for anyone who is into cute and silly poems.

Tatiana says

Like Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky writes poetry for children that speaks to children, rather than just about them. As a result, the poems are silly and full of humor and truth, and never take themselves too seriously (except when they need to, such as in "When I Am Full of Silence," a truly introspective piece). Reading *A Pizza the Size of the Sun* and *A Light in the Attic* concurrently, I discovered that I preferred Prelutsky's simpler, more realistic poems. There are still absurdities, like made-up creatures and aliens and physically impossible situations. However, there is less...how should I say, sinister overtones to this collection. In fact, there are quite a few that are gentle and downright touching (I'm looking at you "When I Grow Up"). A fine compilation.

Lauren Rizzo says

Awards: ALA Booklist Editors' Choice IRA/CBC Young Adults' Choice Award.

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten-5th grade.

Summary: "A Pizza the Size of the Sun" is a book filled with a variety of poems. It is filled with funny and witty characters along with a lot of rhyme and repetition. Along with awesome and different poems, there is plenty of amazing black and white illustrations as well.

Review: I like this book of poems because the poems are all different. Each poem has different lengths, some are in a circle form and some are even written backwards. The styles of the poems make it very unique and creative. Children find it very interesting.

In Class Uses:

1. Create pizza as a class.
 2. Have students do a math activity using different toppings as manipulatives.
 3. Using some of the poems as a vocabulary lesson.
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Alexandria says

A collection of hilarious poems ranging from spaghetti seeds to Dan the Invisible man and his spectacular tan. The poems range from a few lines to roughly four short verses. The illustrations are simple and in black and white but they are fun nonetheless. This would be a fun book to read in the classroom over a period of a week or even longer depending on the number of poems being read everyday.

Melanie Vacco says

1. Awards Won: ALA Booklist Editors' Choice, IRA/CBC Young Adults' Choice
 2. Grade Level: 2-5
 3. This is a quirky poem that shows children the true fun of writing poetry. This poem teaches children that you can find inspiration from anywhere.
 4. I truly enjoyed this poem. It was adorable, funny, and still presented the correct template of how a poem should be written.
 5. In Class Uses: 1) This lesson will be focused on vocabulary. Students first will brainstorm different pizza words using a graphic organizer/spider map. Then, students will work in teams and try to create a pizza A-B-C. These ABC lists will be pooled together to create a pizza dictionary!
2) This will be an opportunity for repeated readings and expressive recitation. Students will be put into groups of four and a stanza will be assigned to each of them from the poem A Pizza the Size of the Sun. They will read the poem 3 times from stanza 1 to 4 and practice their piece smoothly and with expression. This will teach the students word fluency.
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Alissa Cleveland says

1. This is a book compiled of lots of silly poems. For example, the very first poem, A Pizza the Size of the Sun, is all about making an extremely large pizza with all kinds of toppings that will take at least a year and a half to bake. Prelutsky has included different techniques of poetry in the book, which makes it a great mentor text for poetry.
 2. I thought this was a very entertaining collection of poems. I think students would really enjoy reading this book, either independently or as a class. I also think students have a hard time finding interest in poetry, but this book is so silly it can help spark some interest in poetry for the students.
 3. This book could be connected with other poetry books written by Jack Prelutsky. He has written a book titled If Not for the Cat, which is a book full of haiku poems. Students could compare the different poems in A Pizza the Size of the Sun with the haiku poems to see the differences and similarities.
 4. "I'm making a pizza the size of the sun, a pizza that's sure to weigh more than a ton, a pizza too massive to pick up and toss, a pizza resplendent with oceans of sauce". This poem could be used as a mentor text for using similes in poetry. Using lines such as, "with oceans of sauce", is comparing pizza sauce with an ocean. This is an interesting and common poetry technique that students should know.
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Amy Dinoff says

1. Awards the book has received (if any):
 2. Appropriate grade level(s): First grade to 5th grade
 3. Original 3-line summary: A Pizza the Size of the Sun is a wonderful poetry book that is filled with poems about family, animals, food, and bugs just to name a view. Prelutsky's use of irony, humor, and clever use of words makes this book intriguing to the reader. He uses various forms of poetry throughout to keep readers guessing what will come next.
 4. Original 3-line review: This book made me laugh and made me realize how humor is such a delight. What caught my eye was the title because I love pizza and the book definitely was even more than I expected in a wonderful, clever, and creative way. I loved the 'Backwards Forwards Silly Rhyme' because it gives you a puzzle to unscramble the words.
 5. 2-3 possible in-class uses: Use this to teach students the various poem layouts that you can use when writing poetry, students can work in groups to analyze the poems (especially the 'Backwards Forwards Silly Rhyme' since they have to unscramble words), you can read one poem a day as a read aloud and something for the students to look forward too
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