



# Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies

*J. Patrick Lewis , Johanna Wright (Illustrations)*

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**Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies** J. Patrick Lewis , Johanna Wright (Illustrations)

Thirteen classic poems by poets such as Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, and David McCord are paired with parodies written by J. Patrick Lewis that honor and play off of the original poems in a range of ways. For example, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” is paired with “Stopping by Fridge on a Hungry Evening” to hilarious effect, whereas the combination of Emily Dickinson’s “‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers” with Lewis’s “‘Grief’ is the thing with tissues” is profound, and both David McCord’s “This Is My Rock” and Lewis’s “This Is My Tree” hum with a sense of wonder. This playful introduction to classics will inspire imagination and wonder even as it tickles funny bones.

## Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies Details

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Author : J. Patrick Lewis , Johanna Wright (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies for online ebook

### Mrs.Melaugh Melaugh says

Parodies of thirteen short children's poems by former Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis appear here alongside the originals. Thus, in one of the most amusing entries, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" appears next to "Stopping by Fridge on a Hungry Evening." In his introduction, Lewis explains that the parodies are his way of paying tribute to some of the poems he admires, and he invites young readers to give it a try, too. Besides Frost, Lewis parodies poems of Langston Hughes, Dickinson, Tennyson, Housman, de Regniers, Sandburg, Stevenson, Prelutsky, Issa, and two by David McCord. Illustrations luxuriantly saturated with color show a multicultural cast of children enacting the scenes described in the poems. This could be a fun way to engage children with poetry.

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### Amy says

I received this book from a Goodreads giveaway, and it was a pleasant way to end the work week when it was waiting for me in the mail when I got home today.

I wasn't familiar with all of the classic poems in this collection, but some I have heard many times. The parodies were mostly cute and playful, though some allowed for a bit of pondering as well. The illustrations are wonderful, and had me smiling many times.

Overall, I think this would be a great way to introduce children to poetry as well as the concept of a parody. It's a quick read, and could easily be read as a bedtime story. I would recommend to parents of young children, poetry lovers, and anyone who is a kid at heart.

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### Janet says

What fun. So many good uses with kids--and adults.

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### Katie Fitzgerald says

I like the concept for this book, which pairs well-known classic poems with parodies by J. Patrick Lewis. As is usually the case with Lewis, there are a few really brilliant poems and the rest are good, but not as remarkable. My two favorites are his take-offs on Hope is the Thing with Feathers by Emily Dickinson ("Grief is the thing with tissues...") and Happy Thought by Robert Louis Stevenson ("The world is so full of a number of dreams..."). The illustrations feel a bit disjointed and messy to me. It doesn't feel like they suit the moods of most of the poems, and I don't particularly like the stick figure people. The pictures don't really take away from the poems, but they don't add anything either.

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## Michelle says

I just love poetry collections and this is one of my favorites. J. Patrick Lewis selected thirteen of his favorite classic poems and used them as inspiration to write his own "parrot" versions. I like the fact that the writer included the original poems and his own remakes. Also, the introduction is an inspiration to other poets and challenges writers to create their own parodies. The book is also unique by including the thirteenth poem on the back cover. My favorites were Keep a Pocket in Your Poem, Winter Warmth, This is my Tree, and Sleepy Thought.

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## Nicola says

Lovely art work to make this approachable for young children. There are some classic poems that I love and recognise. Miss 3 likes the new silly poems better (though the metre seems off in some of them to me). She wasn't as gripped by it as some books of poetry we've read. I think it would be nice to use with a primary class (or even Yr 9) to encourage them to write their own silly poems or versions of classics.

Miss 3 and I like to explore different books and authors at the library, sometimes around particular topics or themes. We try to get different ones out every week or so; it's fun for both of us to have the variety and to look at a mix of new & favourite authors.

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## Heidi-Marie says

I enjoy a good parody. I especially enjoyed the two poem parodies where I was familiar with the original poem. While not out-of-this-world amazing, there is still something impressive about writing a parody of a poem and keeping rhythm and flow to it. And a fun way to honor classic poems. I liked this much better than his other on the long list. THIS is what I expect from Lewis. I'm glad I was not disappointed in the poetry. The illustrations, however, were quite meh. More of a 3.5.

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## Rebekah Craven says

Poetry

Keep a Pocket In Your Poem is a compilation of 13 poems by famous poets like Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, and many more. However, along with these 13 poems, Lewis accompanies each with his own version of the poem in a humorous parody form. This book is a fun way to introduce students to the genre of poetry, as well as introduce famous poets and poetry to students in your class. This book is appropriate for grades 1-5 and would be perfect to read aloud to your class when teaching the genre of poetry. If I were using this book in my class I would use it as a way to show students how easy it can be to create your own poems, and how it can be done by being inspired by other writers/poets. I think it would be fun and engaging to have students use this book to create their own parodies of their favorite famous poems, or just a poem they really enjoy and connect with. This could give them the opportunity to practice writing in connection to reading, and share their work with their classmates. I think this book is a WOW book because it introduces student's to famous poems and poets, but also shows how creative and unique poetry can allow you to be as a writer.

## Jana says

I really enjoyed reading this poetry picture book that takes classic poems by well known writers and tweaks them to make parodies of the original. This looks like a fun way to introduce some of these poems and inspire creativity by having kids try their hand at creating their own parody tributes of their favorite poems. The illustrations, done in acrylic paint and ink on canvas and scanned and digitally fine-tuned, are very whimsical and colorful. This is a book I'd definitely like to have on my bookshelf!

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## Richie Partington says

Richie's Picks: KEEP A POCKET IN YOUR POEM: CLASSIC POEMS AND PLAYFUL PARODIES written and selected by J. Patrick Lewis and Johanna Wright, ill., Wordsong, March 2017, 32p., ISBN: 978-1-59078-921-6

After laughing my way through this unique poetry collection of classics and parodies, I'm curious to know whether former children's poet laureate J. Patrick Lewis was inspired as a kid to write poetry parodies. KEEP A POCKET IN YOUR POEM is guaranteed to inspire many of today's young poets to give it a shot.

This parody of Robert Frost's most widely recognizable poem, by itself, makes this collection well-worth reading and sharing.

"Stopping by Fridge on a Hungry Evening

Whose mold is this I think I know  
My mother won't admit it, though;  
She hates it when I peek inside  
To watch her fiendish fungus grow.

My little sister cried and cried  
To see a pound cake...petrified!  
That quart of milk's about to blast.  
The cottage cheese has multiplied.

The mustard's green, the mayo's past  
The expiration date--not last  
November?! No, it can't be true.  
The algae's brown and creeping fast.

The eggs are black, the meat is blue  
There's only one thing left to do:  
Get the hose and hire a crew,  
Get the hose and hire a crew."

This is actually a two-for-one experience. In addition to the parodies, readers also get to know the great selection of classics that inspired Lewis's parodies. They include works by Beatrice Schenk de Regnier, Carl Sandburg, Rose Fyleman, Jack Prelutsky, Langston Hughes, David McCord, and more.

Johanna Wright's (digitally fine-tuned) acrylic and ink illustrations are notable for their accessibility, bright palette and, most importantly, their joyful, multicultural cast of characters.

Richie Partington, MLIS  
Richie's Picks <http://richiespicks.pbworks.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/richiespicks/>  
[richiepartington@gmail.com](mailto:richiepartington@gmail.com)

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### **Scott says**

There were quite a few nice accompanying poems in this collection, some felt a bit strained with line breaks for rhymes messing up the flow of the piece. The illustrations are fun, geared for younger audiences. I like the idea of the book, and for the most part it was successful, but nothing standout.

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### **Lisa Rector says**

What a delightful book of poems. I loved "Keep a Poem in Your Pocket / Keep a Pocket in Your Poem", "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening / Stopping by Fridge on a Hungry Evening", "Winter Sweetness / Winter Warmth", "Mice / Rats", "from 'Hope' is the Thing with Feathers / Grief is the Thing with Tissues", "This is my Rock / This is my Tree", and "Happy Thoughts / Sleepy Thoughts". The illustrations are lovely as well.

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### **Ro Menendez says**

The author begins with an introductory page that explains what a parody poem is, and then proceeds to share in each spread, a poem written by another poet, and then the parody he was inspired to write. The poems and their corresponding parody may inspire young poets to give this type of poem writing a try. Some of the more deep or profound poems in the book have an irreverent parody counterpart that might not always be what the reader is in need of.

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### **Pam Page says**

I love poetry books that provide ideas for children for writing their own poetry. Lewis shows them the way by taking classic poems (by Sandburg, Hughes, Dickinson, etc.) and writing his own parody of the poem. A must have for classrooms!

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### **Lynn says**

Our Maine Chickadee Award committee met 5 just days ago to narrow down over 500 books to a list of 10 titles for this year's program. Yesterday I received a copy of this from the publisher - too late!! This book

could have been a strong contender had we known of it prior to our meeting. The possible curriculum connections are broad, especially with 'Poetry Month' of April just around the corner. I like having an updated presentation of old favorites with which youngsters should be familiar. Illustrations are adequate.

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