



A Child's Introduction to Poetry: Listen While You Learn about the Magic Words That Have Moved Mountains, Won Battles and Made Us Laugh and Cry

Michael Driscoll , Meredith Hamilton (Illustrator)

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This wide-ranging journey through the history and highlights of the world's poetry covers everything from odes and epics to nonsense verse and haikus. The book encourages children to listen, read, and learn. Full color illustrations.

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From Reader Review A Child's Introduction to Poetry: Listen While You Learn about the Magic Words That Have Moved Mountains, Won Battles and Made Us Laugh and Cry for online ebook

Princess says

We (my 5yo and I) just started this book and she loves it!! She wants to listen to the poetry CD all the time. It's a great introduction to the different kinds of poetry and contains wonderful, classic examples of each. We are using it to supplement our mini-homeschool program.

Audrey says

This book introduces the reader to a variety of poetry that is arranged in a chronological format.

This book would be a wonderful resource for both students and teachers. The book includes a variety of poems ranging from the most basic nursery rhymes to passages from Shakespeare's Macbeth. The book is arranged in a chronological format that follows poetry up to the current period, ending with a poem by Maya Angelou. There is an accompanying C.D. that readers can use to hear the poems read aloud. Each type of poem is introduced with a background regarding the poem's style. The book does not present poetry in a dry or boring form. Instead, there are entertaining illustrations and explanatory passages that will keep readers engaged in the book's content. Unfamiliar terms are defined in the pages' margins, making the poetry easier to understand, and less frustrating for struggling readers. There is also a glossary at the end of the book that lists various poetry terms and their meanings. There is also a bibliography that will provide guidance to readers who would like ideas regarding future poetry books to read.

Booklist recommends the book for grades 4-6. However, some of the poems in this book are ones that realistically would not be introduced until high school. So, although the illustrations are somewhat juvenile, this book would also be appropriate for a high school classroom or library.

A says

A diverse selection of poetry, an engaging explanation of forms of poetry, and an accompanying CD of poetry read aloud.

Recommended for ages 9-12, but useful for all ages, including parents, teachers and librarians.

A tremendous amount of effort went into every aspect of this book--the explanations of different types of poetry, historical notes, the selection of poems, the CD recording of poetry read aloud, and the amusing illustrations. The information presented is the equivalent of a college course on poetry, but it's designed for children and teenagers. Because there is so much content packed into the book and CD, this book has multiple potential uses. Parents could read a good selection of poetry out loud to young children, as well as explain some of the different types of rhyming poetry that are given. Teenagers interested in writing poetry

could use this book for inspiration and as a guide to what poetry forms might suit the types of feelings they want to express. The book would also be a useful tool for teachers and librarians who want to share poetry with children. An especially helpful feature is a box under some poems containing the meanings of words that most children wouldn't understand. Like many poetry volumes, it is not a book to read from start to finish, but rather to dip into when the mood strikes you--and some of the poems might never appeal to you. The illustrations give the book a contemporary feel; for example, accompanying the text of Robert Burn's "O, my luv is like a red, red rose" is a watercolor of a Las Vegas wedding.

A Booklist review (11/15/03) retrieved on titlewave.com said that there is too much information on each page; however, the reviewer liked the CD and the author's focus on what makes poetry enjoyable. The reviewer thought the book would be useful both for families and teachers. In contrast, School Library Journal (1/1/04) found the format "inviting" and "lively", and thought the book was a must for teachers, homeschool teachers and libraries. Both reviews were descriptive, but the initial negative tone of the Booklist review might deter someone from looking at the book in spite of the fact that positive aspects of it were also mentioned.

Rachel says

Exactly what it claims to be: An introduction to poetry. We enjoyed reading about different styles of poetry as well as famous poets. I would recommend for third grade and up.

Crystal says

A very fun book! We read a two page spread each week that talks about a different style of poetry. There are vocabulary words and definitions and fun historical tid-bits. The book comes with a CD to listen to a professional read the poems aloud as you follow along in the book. My kids have really enjoyed this book/CD this school year!

reed says

This is a great book. Not condescending at all. The author picks truly great (and difficult) poetry and presents it in a really engaging way, with just enough explanation for kids to figure out the meanings of the poems. The only quibble I have is that the readers on the accompanying cd are not that good. No matter - poetry is always better when you yourself read it out loud!

Ash Friend says

A pretty good introduction to poetic terms and styles for grades 3-6. I would have scored it higher, but for some reason, The Raven and The Pied Piper of Hamelin were only excerpts.

Monique says

Chose this poetry anthology as I never really appreciated or understood poetry and am glad I found this multimedia tool that broke down poetry in two basic parts; Part One: The Rhymes and Their Reasons and Part Two: Poetry Greats. In Part One you learn different types of poetry -old favorites like nursery rhymes, haikus, and limericks and a couple of ones I was not as familiar with like a villanelles and pastoral poems (a villanelle is a poem where the main two lines are repeated again and again and pastoral poems are ones created to escape from city life troubles. The second part which was really helpful and interesting was about the lives and influential works of as before the ones you know from Homer, Shakespeare, Dickinson, Poe; and others but a lot I surprisingly was not familiar with at all but am now interested in like Christina Rossetti, Hilaire Belloc, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Octavio Paz. In each section to expound on the principles highlighted there are examples, glossary word banks for troubling words and explanations on different aspects which I appreciate..but no as much as one of the other best parts—the accompanying cd that reads the poems aloud to you. Overall this book can be used as an educational tool, a poetry refresher and a great collection of some memorable additions to literature and the poetry genre.

Dolly says

Our oldest brought this book home from her elementary school library and we attempted to read it together. However, we only got about a third of the way through the book when we discovered that she had to return it. I finally borrowed it again through our local library and we read the rest of it in one night.

If I have any complaints, it's that it's not easy to listen to the CD and keep up with the separate narrative of the book. After a frustrating first attempt to do both at the same time, I decided to listen to the whole CD at once, then go back and read the narrative again independently. Our girls liked the poems, but didn't want me to read the rest aloud. Our oldest daughter said she'd already read the entire book and our youngest didn't care to hear the rest. So that's that.

The narrative is interesting, even if it doesn't work seamlessly with the audio CD and the illustrations are colorful and cartoonish, adding fun details to the poems. Overall, it's an entertaining and informative read.

Amy says

The kids and I had a great time with this one. Really fun and a great selection.

Lorie says

An excellent poetry book for children and for teachers of poetry! This book has a fun format with great illustrations and it explains types of poetry in a non-threatening way. The poems included are mostly familiar (for adults) and will probably rouse up some precious memories. A bonus to the book is a CD that will read the poetry to you!

Mikey Briccetti says

- No awards

2) The poems vary in appropriateness for certain grade levels, making this book best suited for a wide range from Kindergarten to even 5th grade.

- A collection of poetry, spanning all different forms of poetry. Listen and follow along with the CD while you read poems like Jabberwocky, Haiku and even Shakespeare. While you read you can also learn about the structure of each poem and the authors who wrote them.

- There are a wide range of poems to listen to and read, however not all are appropriate for young children. It does offer a resource for teachers who want to teach a lesson on different form of poems. It would be best to copy the poems as most of the page is filled with text rather than pictures.

5) One of the best uses for this set of poems is to have the children (higher grade levels) look through and try to create a poem similar to the poems in the book. This will show them how poems can have multiple different forms. Another use can be to use it as a historical reference for learning about the evolution of poetry and how it has effected people around the world.

Rebecca says

This is a great intro to poetry for young readers. Each poet is introduced in a biographical setting and then there are one or more of that poet's poems. We very much enjoyed listening to the poems being recited on the CD after reading them ourselves.

Rosie Gearhart says

Wonderful introduction to poets and their most famous poems. We read about one poet per day. Comes with an audio CD of all the poems. 7+

Melissa (ladybug) says

This is a nice hardback book with an extremely diverse selection of poetry. Along with the explanations of the different forms of poetry; you will find little biographies of some famous Poets, and an accompanying CD of poetry that is read aloud.

Some forms of poetry you will find include; Nursery Rhymes (Mother Goose, etc...), Nonsense Verses (Jabberwocky fame), The Villanelle (Pronounced "Villain L" Dylan Thomas wrote some), etc... The poets include such well known personalities as; Homer, William Shakespeare, Hilaire Belloc, Maya Angelou, and much more.

I really learned a lot about Poetry and the mechanics of writing them. My mom writes poetry, so it has always been read in my family. This book adds a depth to my enjoyment of it.
