

Creating Heart Prints: Immersing Learners in the Lyrical Language of Poems Illinois Reading Conference



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Engaging Students with Poetry:

Herrera, J. (2018). *Imagine*. (L. Castillo, Illus.). Sommerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

A poem tells the story of Juan Herrera's journey from child to poet laureate. It celebrates the hopes and dreams of immigrants who find themselves in the books they read and the words that they write; in doing so, they find a way to make their dreams come true.

Developing a Love of a Wide Range of Poetry:

Cleary, B. (2014). *Ode to a Commode: Concrete poems*. (A. Rowland, Illus.). New York, NY: Millbrook Press.

Cleary, B. (2014). *If it rains pancakes: Haiku and lantern poems*. (A. Rowland, Illus.). New York, NY: Millbrook Press.

Cleary, B. (2015). *Bow tie pasta: acrostic poems*. (A. Rowland, Illus.). New York, NY: Millbrook Press.

Cleary, B. (2015). *Something sure smells around here: Limericks*. (A. Rowland, Illus.). New York, NY: Millbrook Press.

Cleary, B. (2016). *Underneath my bed: List poems*. (R. Watson, Illus.). New York, Millbrook Press.

Cleary, B. (2016). *I saw an invisible lion today: Quatrains*. (R. Watson, Illus.) New York, NY: Millbrook Press.

The Poetry Adventure series from Brian Cleary includes books about each type of poetry. Individual books begin with a brief description of the type of poetry being highlighted in the books collection, then the book includes a variety of poems provided engaging mentor texts for your readers (and writers).

Mora, P. (2018). *Bookjoy, wordjoy*. (R. Colon, Illus.). New York, NY: Lee and Low Books.

Poems that celebrate words, books and how they enrich our lives every day. This book reminds us that there is a book and a collection of wonderful words for every occasion and situation.

Vanderwater, A. (2017). *Read! Read! Read!* (R. O'Rourke, Illus.). New York, NY: Wordsong.

A collection of poetry to celebrate the joys of reading and readers. In chronological order, the reader sees how amazing the process is from learning to read to sharing reading with others.

Using Mentor Texts to Inspire Poets:

Pak, K. (2016). *Goodbye summer, Hello autumn*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

A young girl walks through the outdoor and greets the signs of the changing seasons. In an engaging back and forth with nature, we learn more about what and how summer gives way to autumn.

Pak, K. (2017). *Goodbye autumn, Hello winter*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

In the follow up to *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn*, we see autumn gives way to winter in changes in nature. This time a young girl brings her brother with her as she walks outdoor and sees what happens as the seasons change.

Learning (& appreciating language) with Poetry:

Cleary, B. (2010). *The punctuation station*. (J. LewVriethoff, Illus.). New York, NY: Millbrook Press.

A family of giraffes go to a trip to the punctuation station where they learn all about what punctuation does at each stop. From periods, to question marks, and even the comma, they will finish their journey with an understanding of how end marks help writers make their writing ready for readers to read!

Hopkins, L. (2018). *A bunch of punctuation*. (L. Bloch, Illus.). New York, NY: Wordsong.

Do you ever wonder what each punctuation mark's personality is like? Well, now you will have your answers because they have each written a poem tell you a little about themselves. You'll learn that the exclamation mark is a superhero who looks to go out and save others and ultimately the world! You'll look forward to learning more about the others.

Alexander, K. (2017). *Animal ark: Celebrating our wild world in poetry and pictures*. (J. Sartore, Illus.). New York, NY: National Geographic Books.

A collection of poetry and photographs that celebrates the animal world. A wide variety of animals from around that world showing both the diversity and fragility of the animal kingdom through poems.

Fleming, C. (2016). *Giant squid*. (E. Rohman, Illus.). New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press.

The giant squid is both elusive and mysterious. However, in this book, we learn about how this creature survives deep in the ocean. With both beautiful illustrations and lyrical prose, mysteries are revealed to the reader throughout this book's pages.

Cline-Ransome, L. (2018). *Before she was Harriet*. (J. Ransome, Illus.). New York, NY: Holiday House.

Harriet Tubman was known by many names throughout her lifetime. Because of the many roles that she played in her life, her names matched them. From Minty the slave to General Tubman who led slaves to their freedom, Harriet was an amazing woman who inspired many people throughout her life.

Weatherford, C. (2017). *Schomburg: The man who built a library*. (E. Velasquez, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

In the hopes of sharing the information of African-Americans who helped to shape our country, Schomburg began to collect information and primary sources. He started a library where people could come to view what he had found. His library later become the New York Public Library.

Poetry to Create Empathy & Inspire Learners:

Latham, I. (2018). *Can I touch your hair?: Poems of race, mistakes, and friendship*. (S. Alko & S. Qualls, Illus.). New York, NY: Carolrhoda.

Irene and Charles are working on a project and they don't know each other very well. They also aren't sure that they want to because all they see in each other are their differences. As they begin to ask each other questions, explore who they are, and deal with their misconceptions, they begin to understand that maybe they may have more in common than they think ...and could be friends after all!

Hood, S. (2018). *Shaking things up: 14 young women who changed the world*. (S. Alko, S. Blackall, L. Brown, H. Hooper, E.W. Martin, O. Mora, J. Morstad, S. Palacios, L. Pham, E. Robinson, I. Roxas, S. Strickland, & M. Sweet, Illus.). New York, NY: Harper Books.

Told through poems and beautiful illustrations, this text highlights the lives of fourteen women who "shook things up" by changing the world that they lived in for future generations of young women and men. Readers meet Mary Anning, Ruby Bridges, and Maya Lin to name just a few that will inspire them to do a few things that might "shake up" the world that we are living in today.

Pinkney, A. (2018). *Martin rising: Requiem for a king*. (B. Pinkney, Illus.). New York, NY: Scholastic.

A collection of poetry to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King. The poems are organized from dawn to night to dawn again correlating to the life and death, then honoring the legacy of King.

Eggers, D. (2018). *What can a citizen do?* (S. Harris, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Chronicle Books.

A story of what the world should be to what it can be through citizen activism. Help the reader see through several small acts of citizenship that can make a difference in the work that we all live in.

Creating Connections for Readers, Writers, and the Citizens of Tomorrow:

Wissinger, T. *Gone Fishing: A novel in verse*. (M. Cordell, Illus.). New York, NY: HMH.

Sam is looking forward to going fishing with his dad, but when his little sister decides to come along he is not too happy. How will that change what their fishing trip looks like and more importantly how will that change what his special time with dad look like?

Wissinger, T. (2017). *Gone camping: A novel in verse*. (M. Cordell, Illus.). New York, NY: HMH. Books for Young Readers.

Lucy is going camping with her brother and grandpa, but she isn't sure if she is ready to face her fears of what is waiting for her in the woods where they will be. Will camping really be as fun as they tell her that it will be?

Frost, H. (2016). *Applesauce weather*. (A. Bates, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

Faith and Peter look forward to "applesauce weather" and the stories that Uncle Arthur tells, but this year is different. Uncle Arthur may not be coming and they are all learning to live without Aunt Lucy. When Uncle Arthur does finally arrive, Faith and Peter learn that he has very special stories and gifts for them this year. What will they be and how will they carry on the traditions of applesauce weather when he isn't able to be with them anymore?

Alexander, K. (2014). *Crossover*. New York, NY: HMH Books for Young Readers.

Josh and Jordan love playing basketball almost as much as they love their father, a former professional basketball player. Josh, better known as Filthy McNasty, has skills that might take him to the pros just like his dad, but he is struggling with adolescence. A life changing event will help them all put not only basketball, but family, in perspective in a way that nothing else can ever do.

Alexander, K. (2015). *Booked*. New York, NY: HMH Books for Young Readers.

Soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read that will help change him in ways that he doesn't see coming.

Alexander, K. (2018). *Rebound*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

In the prequel to *Crossover*, we learn about Chuck Bell and how he came to be the basketball star that his sons look up to and admire. When Chuck was a young boy, he went to spend the summer with his grandparents where he learned to important things: that he loved basketball and that his family had some secrets in their past that they had not been completely honest about with him.

Burg, A. (2017). *Unbound*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

When Grace is called to work in the Big House, her mother warns her to be quiet and "know her place." Unfortunately, despite her warning Grace finds herself in trouble and she is told that part of her family will be sent to the slave block again; separating them forever. When she rushes back to tell her family, they decide that the only way that they can stay together is to try to find the Underground Railroad and find their freedom!

Grimes, N. (2016). *Garvey's choice*. New York, NY: Wordsong.

Garvey's father wants him to be something that he is not, an athlete. He is interested in many other things: astronomy, science, music, and Star Trek; all things that his father hates. Then he makes the decision to join the chorus and his life changes...for the better.

Hilton, M. (2015). *Full cicada moon*. New York, NY: Dial Books.

It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. Suddenly, Mimi's appearance is all anyone notices. She struggles to fit in with her classmates, even as she fights for her right to stand out by entering science competitions and joining Shop Class instead of Home Ec. And even though teachers and neighbors balk at her mixed-race family and her refusals to conform, Mimi's dreams of becoming an astronaut never fade—no matter how many times she's told no.

Atkins, J. (2016). *Finding wonders: Three girls who changed science*. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Beautifully written verse novel that tells the story of three young women in three different time periods that changed the face of science forever because of the contributions that they made. During the times when women were not to pursue an education, much less in the field of science, these women not only persevered in obtaining an education, but also made significant achievements to the fields of biology, geology, and astronomy.

Woodson, J. (2014). *Brown girl dreaming*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books.

An autobiographical story of her childhood, Jacqueline Woodson tells of her life in "two worlds" being raised in both South Carolina and New York during the racially charged 1960s and 70s, living with the remnants of the Jim Crow laws and the Civil Rights movement.

Weatherford, C. (2016). *You can fly: The Tuskegee airmen*. (J. Weatherford, Illus.) New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

The Tuskegee Airmen became an elite group of airmen during World War 2 that were recruited to be trained as the first African American pilots to fly for America. This story tells of one man's journey from signing up through the rigorous coursework, training, and ultimately graduation from the program.

Brown, S. (2016). *To stay alive: Mary Ann Graves and the tragic journey of the Donner party*. Sommerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

This first-person narrative of Mary Ann Graves and she and her family travel with the Donner Party westward. From the excitement at the beginning of their journey, to the daily struggles during their journey, to the tragic end for many of the members of their party - we learn of how Mary and others make difficult choices to stay alive and finally make it to California, telling a story of survival that resonates with us to this day.

Acevedo, A. (2018). *The poet x*. New York, NY: Harper Teen.

Xiomara is looking for a place for her voice. Her body and her world are changing, but she doesn't know how to express what she is feeling about her life. Then she discovers a leather notebook that can contain not only her words, but her feelings. When she is invited to join the school's poetry slam club, she realizes that if she does, she must do it in secret because her mother won't approve. But in the end, Xiomara realizes that she can't be silent because the world needs to hear what she has to say!

Alexander, K. (2017). *Solo*. New York, NY: Blink.

Blade Morrison lives the life of a child of a rock star as he struggles living in the shadow of his addict father. When he finds a family secret that changes his life forever, he travels across the ocean to find out who he really is. Told in verse, this novel develops characters, family, and ultimately identity in an unforgettable way.

Alexander, K. (2018). *Swing*. New York, NY: Blink.

Noah and Walt and best friends who are planning on their junior year being the year that is the year that their dreams begin to come true - dreams that have to do with baseball, love, and "being cool." But their dreams, their friendship, and their belief about right and wrong may be

put to the test when American flags begin to crop up around town and no one knows why. When the reason begins to surface, Noah, Walt, and the rest of the community have a decision to make and that decision will forever define who they are.

Reynolds, J. (2017). *Long way down*. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Will has always be taught to follow the rules and now it is time to follow the most important one - get revenge. His brother has been shot and killed. He has gotten his gun from the drawer, gotten on the elevator to take the sixty second ride to the lobby and then he will go and take revenge on his brother's killers. But he meets several people as he travels down in that elevator who have something to say to him that may ...or may not change his mind.

Professional Resources

Maiers, A. (2012). *Classroom habitudes: Teaching habits and attitudes of 21st century learning*. New York, NY: Solution Learning.

Heard, G. (1998). *Awakening the heart: Exploring poetry in elementary and middle school*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Fletcher, R. (2002). *Poetry matters: Writing a poem from the inside out*. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

Biggs-Tucker, K., & Tucker, B. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, 3-5*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. (In Press). *The Revved-Up Read Aloud: What to Say as You Turn the Page*. Corwin.

Walther, M. & Biggs-Tucker, K. (In Press). *Blurring the Lines: An Integrated Reading and Writing Workshop*. Stenhouse.