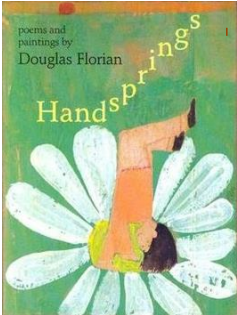
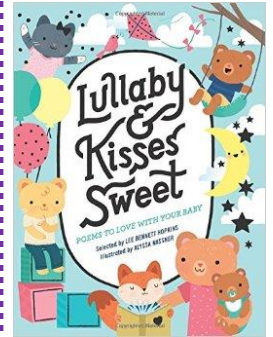


BOOKS OF THE MONTH



Lullaby & Kisses Sweet: Poems to Love with Your Baby by Lee Bennett Hopkins – This is a darling introduction to poetry for the youngest readers it is easily readable because it is in board book format!
Ages infant – 3 years.

Handsprings: Poems & Paintings by Douglas Florian Douglas Florian is a prolific children's poet, capturing many elements of the natural world through his words and artwork. This poetry collection is dedicated to the spring! Ages 5-10 years.



OTHER GREAT EXAMPLES OF Children's Poetry:

A Child's Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson – Children across generations can relate to the familiarity and simplicity of these poems. My favorite is "The Swing."
Ages 4-adult.

A Sock is a Pocket for Your Toes by Elizabeth Garton Scanlon – The descriptions in this book are so original. Once you read this book with children, it would make a great starting point for their own magical descriptions of everyday objects! Ages 4-8.

Animal Crackers by Jane Dyer – A gentle collection of classic poetry and nursery rhymes organized into child-friendly categories such as animals, playtime, and lullabies.
Ages 2-5.

Here's a Little Poem: a very first book of poetry by Jane Yolen – This is one of my favorite collections of poems for little ones – a perfect collection to encourage self-discovery and self-esteem. Ages 2-5.

It's Raining Laughter by Nikki Grimes – These joyous poems celebrate both childhood and the wonderful individuality that makes our world so beautiful. Ages 4-8.

Seasons: a book of poems by Charlotte Zolotow – Zolotow captures the feel of each of the four seasons vividly through this short poetry collection. Ages 6-9.

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein – Shel Silverstein's wacky, rhythmic verses bring back memories of my childhood. Although many of the poems in this collection are ridiculous, there are also some very thought provoking, serious ones as well. Silverstein at his best! Ages 6-11 years.

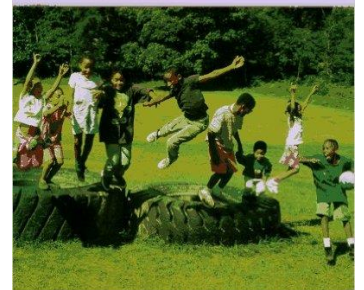
Love that Dog by Sharon Creech – This is a novel told in verse. Jack is a little boy who does not like poetry. And he is certainly not going to write his own poems. Yet with the encouragement of his teacher, he gradually opens up to the possibilities contained in poetry and the power of his own voice. Ages 8-12.



It's Raining Laughter

by Nikki Grimes

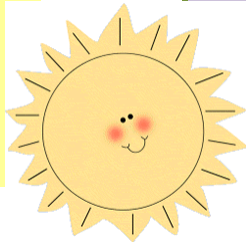
Photographs by Myles C. Pinkney



Poems of the Month

Morning by Rebecca Kai Dotlich

Sun woke up.
So did I.
Good morning, Mama.
Good morning, sky.
So many things to hear – to see.
Look, world – it’s me!



Looking Around by Aileen Fisher

Bees own the clover,
Birds own the sky,
Rabbits, the meadow
With low grass and high.
Frogs own the marshes,
Ants own the ground...
I hope they don’t mind my looking around.

Learning Ideas for April:

NAME POEMS

This type of poetry is called “Acrostic.” Children get to be the stars and co-authors of the poem! Write out the letters of each child’s name the long way down a paper (or let them practice writing as many letters as they know in their names). Together, find a word that starts with each letter of their name and write it across next to that letter. You can write a word or phrase. It can fit together or not – it’s up to you and your children. The beautiful thing about poetry is how open ended it is – so you can be as creative as you wish!

Here’s an example, for my son:

Hilarious and
Energetic, loves
Nonsense, sometimes
Really
Yells!



Invite children to decorate their names with markers, stickers, stamps, crayons, etc. Have fun together!

CREATE A COLLAGE POEM

What you need:

- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Coupons or ads – other sources of words!
- Glue and scissors
- Large paper

Go on a word search through the magazines, ads, and newspapers you’ve collected. When children find a word that looks or sounds interesting to them, let them tear or cut it out. Tell your children that they will be making “poem art.” Invite them to glue their words onto a larger piece of paper in any order and design they choose. Talk together about the words they chose and why they like these words.



Since, poets can be thought of as “word collectors” your children are also poets through creating their own collection of words!

You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: www.piercecountylibrary.org.

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT STARS CLASS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH WILL BE “COMPASSION, MINDFULNESS, AND LITERACY”