



# The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury

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"Until this century, most children's poetry was either syrupy sweet or overblown and didactic, and tended to talk down to its readers. Contemporary children's poets have thrown all that condescension and moralizing out the window, and write with today's *real child* in mind."

- from the Introduction by Jack Prelutsky

Here in one gloriously illustrated volume are 211 wonderful poems that represent the best this century has to offer. From sibling rivalry, school, monsters, food, and just plain silliness, to such ageless themes as the seasons, Who am I?, and the many moods of childhood, this is a collection that begs to be read aloud and shared with the whole family. The poems, from every decade of this century, showcase 137 famous poets.

Selected by Jack Prelutsky, America's leading children's poet, and illustrated by award-winning watercolorist Meilo So, this useful and beautiful gift is a splendid way to end the century -- or start a new one. Truly a book that families will cherish long after the millennium excitement is over, **The 20th-Century Children's Poetry Treasury** is a joyous companion volume to the best-selling **The 20th-Century Children's Book Treasury**.

This book has been selected as a Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar (Grades K-1, 2-3, Poetry) in Appendix B.



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## **The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury From Knopf Books for Young Readers Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

"I objurgate the centipede,/ A bug we do not really need," writes Ogden Nash. Carl Sandburg hums and strums, while pages later, William Jay Smith compares a toaster to a silver-scaled dragon. And of course A.A. Milne must add his two cents' worth, "tiddely pom, tiddely pom." What a labor of love! Children's poet and anthologist Jack Prelutsky has collected 211 of his favorite poems by 137 poets, representing the best of verse from each decade of the 20th century. "Until this century, most children's poetry was either syrupy sweet or overblown and didactic, and tended to talk down to its readers," Prelutsky writes in his introduction. "Contemporary children's poets have thrown all that condescension and moralizing out the window, and write with today's *real child* in mind."

What's in this anthology for today's child? Food fights, outer space, animals, noses, monsters, sports, and sibling rivalry. Each of award-winning illustrator Meilo So's spectacular watercolor-splashed spreads reflects a theme: one buggy watercolor romp is surrounded by Deborah Chandra's "Cricket," Walter R. Brooks's "Ants, Although Admirable, Are Awfully Aggravating," and Robert Frost's "Blue-Butterfly Day." Five nocturnal poems nestle into a moonlit cityscape. Four music-related poems, from Bruce Lansky's "My Violin" to X.J. Kennedy's "The Girl Who Makes the Cymbals Bang," burst from So's cacophonous paintings. This excellent collection, a companion to *The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury*, belongs on every poetry lover's bookshelf. Prelutsky, creator of *The New Kid on the Block*, *The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*, and more than 30 other poetry books, has perfect pitch. (Click to see a sample spread. Illustrations copyright 1999 by Meilo So. Permission of Alfred A. Knopf.) (All ages) --Karin Snelson

#### From Publishers Weekly

For this companion to *The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury*, Prelutsky combed more than 4000 poetry volumes to select 211 poems by 137 poets. His sampling includes established poets like Langston Hughes, Shel Silverstein and e.e. cummings, but, to Prelutsky's credit, not necessarily their best-known works. The overriding mood is rollickingly upbeat, uncharacteristic for a form renowned for its adeptness at expressing moments of grief or loneliness. Hats off to So (*The Beauty of the Beast*, with Prelutsky), who visually holds the anthology together. Her people are engagingly limber, her animals unmatched: for instance, she evokes the fitful movements of a squirrel with a few calligraphic strokes, and her wet-on-wet technique suggests the fluffy texture of a kitten's fur or the speed of leaping salmon. In one spread, she ingeniously accommodates eight bug poems from poets as diverse as Ogden Nash and Valerie Worth; the poems themselves appear to flit about a central image of two children nearly hidden in a field of wildflowers. She connects four stand-alone poems in another spread ("A Hippopotamusn't" by J. Patrick Lewis and "The Click Clacker Machine" by Donna Lugg Pape are two of them) with a unified palette of pinks and lavenders. Its unvarying tone notwithstanding, this eye-catching collection is likely to lure both future fans of verse and poetry devotees. All ages. (Sept.)

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#### From Library Journal

Grade 1-6-This volume, described in Prelutsky's introduction as representative of the "scope and variety of children's verse produced in the twentieth century," contains 211 poems by 137 poets. Some are well known, such as Shel Silverstein, Karla Kuskin, and Prelutsky himself. Some have written mainly for adults, e.g., John Updike, Langston Hughes, and e. e. cummings. Lesser-known and more recently published poets, such as Janet Wong, Deborah Chandra, and Nikki Grimes, are included as well. The greatest number are from the

United States. While all of these selections have been published elsewhere, the format and illustrations in this collection give them new life. Poems are presented in unlabeled small groups that cross each double-page spread. Some of these groupings are clearly understood from their content, such as those on the seasons or on insects. Others require readers to think about common threads or themes as they read and study the illustrations, such as the cluster of poems on ways of creating. In another grouping, Prelutsky pairs poems of bats and mice with a poem about creatures who see better at night, calling attention to their shared physical characteristics. So's watercolor illustrations are, by turn, impressionistic, childlike, silly, and serious, as called for by the tone of the poems featured. Sometimes the artist creates one unifying illustration across the spread, such as a cityscape at night that features all types of light found in the group of poems presented there. A splendid collection.

*Barbara Chatton, College of Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie*

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#### George Cardenas:

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources included can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information especially this The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everybody knows.

#### Carolyn Bailey:

The experience that you get from The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury is a more deep you searching the information that hide into the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood through anyone who read the item because the author of this book is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury instantly.

#### Jeanie Hynes:

The book untitled The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice study.

**Daniel Watkins:**

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