



## The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury

*Jack Prelutsky , Meilo So (Illustrator)*

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A collection of more than 200 poems by such modern poets as Nikki Grimes, John Ciardi, Karla Kuskin, Ted Hughes, e.e. cummings, Eve Merriam, Deborah Chandra, Arnold Adoff, and more than 100 others.

## **The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury Details**

Date : Published September 21st 1999 by Alfred A. Knopf

ISBN : 9780679993148

Author : Jack Prelutsky , Meilo So (Illustrator)

Format : Library Binding 96 pages

Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Picture Books

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## **From Reader Review The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury for online ebook**

### **Tandava Brahmachari says**

This is probably my favorite general collection of children's poetry I've seen. I think it helps that I like Jack Prelutsky's style, so I also like most of the things by other poets that he chooses. There are lots of delightful poems throughout the whole book, loosely grouped with similar themes sharing pages. I don't particularly favor the illustration style, but it's energetic and colorful, so it works. If you had to get just one book of poetry for your kid, I'd say this should be it.

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### **Katherine Cowley says**

This is a lovely collection of poems for children, with poems on animals, seasons, body parts, actions (i.e. running), children's games (there's a lovely poem on jacks) and so much more. It's a great book to introduce your kids to the joy of poetry. And the illustrations are wonderful and fun.

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### **Megan Gavin says**

I think this book is really well done. Jack Prelutsky hand selected hundreds of poems from the 20th Century that he thought were fantastic for children. There are poems by dozens of authors in this book, and they all demonstrate fantastic poetry selections that help students' imaginations soar. The illustrations are also all done in mostly watercolors, which I think is a genius move because many younger students will relate much more to using watercolors than other mediums. This book would be great for a lesson on how you can create numerous poems and types of poetry based around a central theme.

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### **Christie says**

#### **Summary:**

You want monsters, talk about food, fighting with your brother or sister, talk about school or just being silly. Here is the book for you.

Genre: This poem book has a great selection of poems of all kinds and from the current century lots of sensory and imagination.

Writing Traits Sentence fluency- There poems that have a rhythm and a beat, graceful varied almost musical to the ear. Word Choice the language used creates meaning, the words are chosen for the meaning and the phrase. Voice- The writee wanted to make a connection wanting to leave the reader wanting more giving the writing life. Ideas the poems have a purpose and point.

Classroom applications: Language arts teaching different writing, teaching similes, and metaphors. Social studies- social skills, holidays. Science-animals, flying, seasons, work. Health -Food.

### **Megan says**

K-6th grades

Another great poetry book from Jack Prelutsky. This collection has such an anthologic variety of poem topics, from the subject of wolfs to summertime stars to the month of June. The pages are filled with many poems from many different authors. The text on each page is relatively small, needing a teacher to be the reader for younger children, or it could be used as a read alone for the upper grades. Some illustrations run across the pages while others sit nicely at the bottom. I would recommend this book to any teacher wanting to introduce poetry in their classroom.

Language Arts/Art

For lower grades, new illustrations could be assigned to the poem Afternoon on a Hill by Edna St. Vincent Milay.

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### **Lindsey Andrighetti says**

The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury is a book that not only captivates the reader, but also gives the reader an experience. The poems that are contained within this book are also not the sometimes-cliché, children's poems that limit the child's imagination. The poems within this book are extremely diverse and cover the entire spectrum of topics of poetry. Another added plus of this book lays within the illustrations. The pictures and drawings in this book cross the gutter on each page, and the images are extremely different on each page- leaving something for everyone to love. Along with the vast number of images on each page, the pictures are colored with vibrant combinations that go far beyond just the colors of the rainbow. The poems are also presented in such a way that they lay scattered and arranged in different spots on each page. I appreciated this book because of the complexity and time that was evidently put into each spread, because it allows for the readers to have a lasting experience with the book.

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### **Mara Loventhal says**

Title: The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury

Author: Jack Prelutsky?Illustrator: Meilo So?Genre: Collection Of Poems For Children?Theme(s): Animals, Seasons, Life, Learning, Young Children?Opening line/sentence: Magic Landscape: Shall I draw a magic landscape? In the genius of my fingers I hold the seeds.?Brief Book Summary: This group of poems essentially consists of everyday experiences children will face when growing up. The poems range from happy and silly to sad and serious. They each show an accurate depiction of what reality is and what children need to know.?Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Publisher's 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.)

#### Professional Recommendation/Review #2: Children's Literature

With over 200 poems and over 130 poets, this extensive collection is a great addition to any library. All of the top children's poets are included, both contemporary and past, such as Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky. Even poets that we often may not associate with children's poetry, such as Langston Hughes and Robert Frost, have been included here. Separated into themes, this book covers a wide range of topics, including nature, city life, word play and food. For the lover of poetry or those wanting to instill an appreciation for verse in their child, this is a great collection. 1999, Alfred A. Knopf, \$21.99 and \$19.95. Ages 6 to 12. Reviewer: Sheree Van Vreede?Response to Two Professional Reviews: Both of these reviews show how great of a poem book this is. It is filled with poems that range from traditional to modern. This will allow children to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for poetry.

Evaluation of Literary Elements (3-4 sentences in your own words): This book is clearly all about poetry. The interesting and different part of this specific poetry book is that it contains many different lessons and messages that add to the collection the poems consist of. The pictures and illustrations that are shown vary from page to page allowing the reader to focus both on the words as well as use the illustrations to better understand what the poem is explaining.

Consideration of Instructional Application: Considering this book is all about poems I thought it would be a really great idea to write a class poem about a topic that everyone agrees on. Growing up my teachers never really focused on poetry as a lesson they would just always mention it. Today I feel it is important for children to understand that poetry is a different and unique way of writing and expressing feelings. It should be addressed to young children early on so they can use poetry more often in their future.

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#### Gabrielle Pulito says

**Title:** *italicize* 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury

**Author:** Jack, Prelutsky

**Illustrator:** Meilo So

**Genre:** Poems

**Theme(s):** Poems, Young Children, Everyday Life, Creativity, Learning

**Opening line/sentence:** Magic Landscape: Shall I draw a magic landscape?

**Brief Book Summary:** This collection hold a series of children's poems. Most of the poems relate to the lives and learning experiences of a child as they grow up and go through the realities and teachings of life.

#### Professional Recommendation/Review #1: Publishers Weekly - Publisher's Weekly

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With over 200 poems and over 130 poets, this extensive collection is a great addition to any library. All of the top children's poets are included, both contemporary and past, such as Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky. Even poets that we often may not associate with children's poetry, such as Langston Hughes and Robert Frost, have been included here. Separated into themes, this book covers a wide range of topics, including nature, city life, word play and food. For the lover of poetry or those wanting to instill an appreciation for verse in their child, this is a great collection. 1999, Alfred A. Knopf, \$21.99 and \$19.95. Ages 6 to 12. Reviewer: Sheree Van Vreede

**Response to Two Professional Reviews:** The overall mood of the poems are positive and upbeat. This poetry collection is eye-catching and a great addition to any library. This collection connects stand-alone poems into one theme also it groups' poem topics together having for example eight bug poems all together. The illustrations are simple but bring out simple details of cats fur or leaping salmon, making them pop.

**Evaluation of Literary Elements:** Poetry, this book is a collection of poems however the poems are all unique and bring different elements to the collection. Rhyming is also displayed throughout many of the poems making they flow and some almost song like. The illustrations are simple, using watercolors but give a perfect clip of what the poem was about. Also some of the illustrations take up the whole page and others have multiple small illustrations on each page. The large pictures incorporate all the imagery in the set of poems displayed on the page in one picture.

**Consideration of Instructional Application:** Children can pick their favorite poem from this collection and analyze it discovering the type of poem that it is and what it is about. Student may also be asked to memorize or recite their chosen poem to practice reading and public speaking. Students may also be asked to pick multiple poems and compare and contrast the two poems are their style and literacy elements.

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#### **Marla Bassetti says**

The 20th Century Children's Poetry selected by Jack Prelutsky contains 211 wonderful poems that relate to children of the century. With topics such as sibling rivalry, monsters, school, nature, and self reflection; the book identifies with the many moods and interests of children. The poems range from simple to complex and challenging, thought provoking concepts, but with language that is appropriate for children. This book would be great to accommodate the many interests of students in our classes maybe having a child select one each day to share out loud with the group. My Heart Sours was my favorite poem in the collection. I also appreciated the index that allows readers to preview the variety of topics and the index of authors that would allow students to make connections about a particular author they enjoyed. The illustrations are cute and whimsical and the bright colors make the book appealing to young children. They are able to see a wide range of styles of poetry and the organization of topics by pages and illustrations would help with making comparisons. I would begin my poetry unit by reading "A poem is a little path" in hopes of sparking their interest and love for poetry. I think this text would be appropriate for grades 3-5 because of the wide range of complexities and lessons that would accompany this poetry!

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### **Gaby Montes says**

It's hilarious that I have owned the 20th Century Children's Book Treasury for YEARS and never once did it occur to me that this book might have some hidden gems of its own - and it's not because I don't love poetry! In fact, I love poetry, always have. Well, this book finally came into my possession when I ordered it off Amazon as a gift for a child. IT wasn't my intention to get this book either, no no, I wanted the Book Treasury. Time was against me so I went with this book - and I'm so glad I did. It's got such a wonderful collection of poems from authors that are known and loved by children and adults alike. Each page has several poems with a certain theme and all come with fun and colorful illustrations. If you wanted to give a child a gift, I don't think there's anything better than a book - I know that I still have my books from childhood on my personal shelves (and the 20th Century Book Treasury is one of them). This is a book that is fun, inspiring, beautiful, and well worth the time. They'd make great 5-minute bedtime reads that, I believe, would truly spark a love for reading, and poetry, in parent and child alike. Loved it and I highly recommend it!

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### **Meghann Sniffen says**

Awards the book has received (if any): none

Appropriate grade level(s): second

Original 3-line summary: This book has many poems about growing up and changing but are for children.

Topics in the book range from fights with your siblings to monsters and ice cream.

Original 3-line review: I think this poem book is really good because it covers such a weird range of topics. I think the poems in it are fun and playful and the book cover is very bright.

2-3 possible in-class uses: Good for getting modern poems that not everyone knows.

- good for children who don't talk or express their feelings so when you ask them what's up they can find a poem that relates to them.

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### **J.R. LaMar says**

I really enjoyed it but as with any compilation it has its highs and lows. I loved seeing all of the best in one book though.

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### **Katelyn Mendoza-Weiss says**

What a fun book of poetry! "The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury", drew my attention simply because of the illustrations. Each page has a new illustration that carries a new theme with it. For example, one page has a picture of people at the park. The titles of the poems on that page are somehow associated with some detail from that illustration. The titles are simple like "The Snowflake", "Spring", or "Dinosaur", but they nearly cover every object, place, and time a child would encounter. Also, each poem is written by a different poet.

The most interesting poem I read, was the poem titled "I Was Walking in a Circle", which was written in the

shape of a circle. I actually had to spin the book to read the poem, and the entire poem was in phrases. The poem "Rolling Down a Hill", was written in a similar fashion, where each stanza looks like it was rolling down a hill.

If I were to put this poetry book in a classroom one day, I could see children being drawn to it, because it has many different themes, and is creative. The kids could flip to what ever interests them, and read those poems. They are also just fun and simply poems to read.

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### **Stan says**

Poems that span the twentieth century. Poems that celebrate life and beauty. Cuddly, happy, serious, silly poems, poems, poems; two hundred eleven in all. Color and water give lovely impressions, but don't cramp the feel of the words. What a delightful book this is.

With every reading the book gets better. I have struggled with enjoying poetry, but I keep feeling drawn to it. Perhaps if there had been someone in my life that loved poetry the journey may have been easier, but now I can say I love poetry, and this little volume had a lot to do with it. I have so enjoyed reading a few poems every night. Each one is like a little emotional treasure, a whole story in a few lines, a launching pad for my own feelings and thoughts.

Meilo So is a poet with a brush. Her illustrations are at turns beautiful and whimsical, touching and capricious. My favorite picture is on pages 36-37, I love the colors and the birds; other pages with favorite pictures are 86-87, a magic carpet ride; 66-67, I love fall colors; 18, the marsh; 44-45, a mountain vista.

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### **Jessica says**

Identifying the appropriate genre: Poetry

Review/Summary: Children's author and poet Jack Prelutsky puts together a group of poetry that represents poems of 137 famous poets. This book represents a wide range of topics from food to sibling rivalry. This book is a great addition to any family or classroom library.

Writing Trait :*The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury* includes a couple writing traits:

Sentence Fluency: This book is full of poems with rhythm and rhyme. The sentences throughout this treasury are well built. The poems in this book are not always in compliance with conventions and standard English but this is what gives the poems their rhythmic tone.

Presentation: The beautiful water color pictures add to the warm and inviting feel of this book. Each picture matches to the tone of the poetry (i.e. instrument pictures included with instrument poetry).

Usage for Classroom Instruction: This book fits well in any elementary classroom. I would use this book to teach students about poetry and rhyme, to introduce topics and lessons, and as a read aloud.

Interest Level: 3-5

Reading Level: NP (Non-Prose)

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