



## The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury

*From Knopf Books for Young Readers*

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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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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Andrew Martin:**

With other case, little persons like to read book The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury. You can choose the best book if you appreciate reading a book. Providing we know about how is important a book The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can recognize everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple thing until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, you can open a book or even searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's study.

#### **James Jones:**

This book untitled The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury to be one of several books this best seller in this year, this is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy that book in the book store or you can order it via online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you to past this e-book from your list.

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**David Byrd:**

In this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you are related is just spending your time very little but quite enough to get a look at some books. On the list of books in the top record in your reading list is definitely The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking right up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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