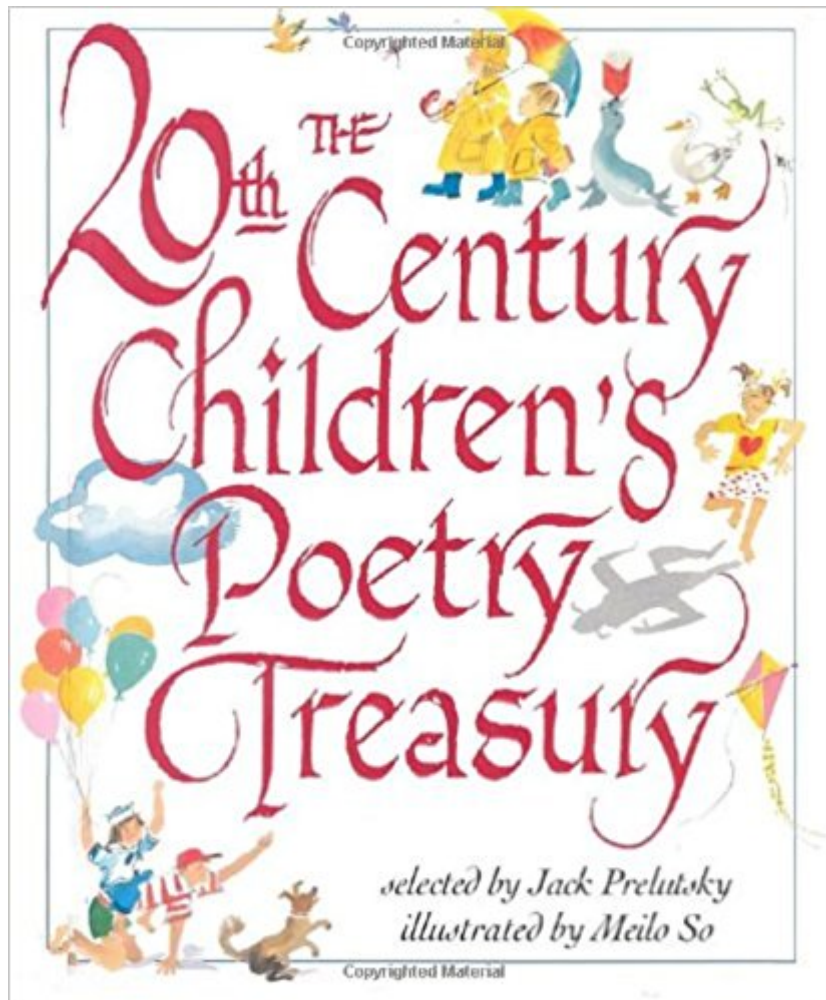




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The 20th Century Children's Poetry Treasury



Synopsis

"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.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 12

Customer Reviews

"I objugate 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

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.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a great gift to kids (and adults) that like playing with words. Jack Prelutsky has compiled some of the best poetry of the 20th Century. His aim is true. There are no clunkers in this anthology. The poetry covers the broad range from wistful to joyful, with imagination to spare. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the illustrations by Meilo So. They gorgeously illustrate the gist of many poems. Just like the poems, the paintings drip with imagination and wonder. Some people may frown at spoon-feeding images, rather than letting the child make up his/her own. They may have a point, yet you can always discuss the images with the kid, decide whether they properly frame the poems and/or discuss what other images would have been better. In other words, these illustrations can be used as a spring board for further imaginative work. All in all, I highly recommend this book.

My five year old and I enjoy this book very much. Since poetry was such an enjoyable part of my own childhood I wanted to find a special selection for her as well. This one really fits the bill and we turn to it regularly at bedtime. The poems are organized loosely by theme on the various pages: food poems, animals, noises, summer, faces, and etc etc. Many of the poems are really funny and have wonderful sounds, rhythms and topics that speak to the child's inner poet. For instance, the Hippopotamustn't, a poem by a child with a cold, and a circular poem that goes around and around on the page are some of my daughter's favorites which she herself has partially memorized and asks for with enthusiasm. Some of the criticisms I read in these reviews are of the illustrations and that it has a smaller number of poems than some anthologies. Personally I like the illustrations. They are very colorful and loose and take equal billing on the page with the words. They help keep my child's imagination rolling through the many poems on the page. I also find the number of poems more than sufficient for our needs. There is a huge range of subjects and so far, every time we have ever said "I wonder if there's a poem about X--" when we go to the index, sure enough there is a poem with that exact name. We are still discovering new poems.

I bought this book so my 7 year old and I could read kid-level poetry. The poems are entertaining, provide a good challenge for young readers, and fun for both of us. Because poetry is usually rhythmic, I use this book to help my daughter concentrate on each word and not skip any.

I bought this book for my new grandson last year, and he loved it from very early on. Today I read it to him before nap, and it still charms, even me! It is filled with delightful poems, and the art work is equally enchanting. I highly recommend it to all!

My daughter has to memorize a poem every month for school, and this treasury has good mid-length poems organized by theme and time of year. A really excellent collection of modern, high-quality poems.

Love this book! Great condition. Fast shipping. For any parent with a little one or looking for a great teachers gift, this is a must have!!

I love reading poetry to my grandchildren. The images drawn, in few words, create an environment for imagination. This is a great collection of poems, most of which I have not encountered before, so it's as exciting to me to read them as it is for my grandkids to listen to. I am very pleased with my purchase

Poems that span the twentieth century. Poems that celebrate life and its 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. This book is delightful.

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