



---

# **Books Kits for the 2019 Beehive Book Awards Poetry Nominees**

***My Daddy Rules the World: Poems about Dads***

***Best in Snow***

***Rolling Thunder***

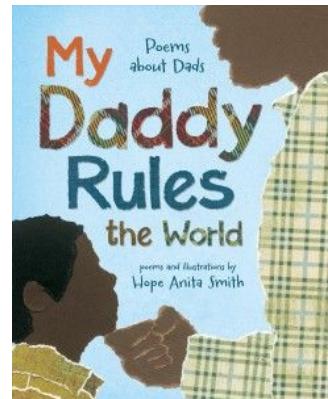
***Catching a Storyfish***

***One Minute till Bedtime***



## My Daddy Rules the World: Poems about Dads

**Author:** Hope Anita Smith  
**Publisher:** Henry Holt and Company  
**Publication Date:** 2017  
**ISBN:** 9780805091892  
**Grade Level:** K-3



### Description

A picture book of poems that celebrate fathers from a two-time Coretta Scott King Honor-winning poet. Told through the voice of a child, Anita Hope Smith's My Daddy Rules the World collection of poems celebrates everyday displays of fatherly love, from guitar lessons and wrestling matches to bedtime stories, haircuts in the kitchen, and cuddling in bed. These heartwarming poems, together with bold folk-art-inspired images, capture the strength and beauty of the relationship between father and child.

### Themes

Fathers, families, communication, emotions, learning

### **Author/Illustrator Information**

On her journey to becoming an award-winning author, Hope Anita Smith has been a storyteller, teacher, photographer, artist and a singer. Her first book, THE WAY A DOOR CLOSES won several awards including, The Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award, the Judy Lopez award from the Women's National Book Association, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Honor, the Claudia Lewis Award from Bank Street College and it was chosen as one of the Best Books of the Year by School Library Journal 2004.

Her company, INKED WELL WORDS, has her teaching writing "wordshops" to writers of every age. She encourages her students to find their 'voice' using paint chips, random words, found objects, magazine pictures. And she sometimes teaches bookmaking workshops allowing her students to create personalized journals to house their creations. Wanting to make sure her students get a feel for the 'behind the scenes' of being a published author, Hope conducts assemblies (mini musicals and or/ a Keynote presentation) that takes you from Idea to Hardbound book. Learn more at <http://www.hopeanitasmith.com>

### Discussion Questions

1. Who is a father figure in your life?
2. What things do you love to do with your family?
3. What are some things that someone helped teach you, that you can now do on your own?
4. What can you say to someone to let them know how special they are to you?



## **Activities**

1. Make a bookmark for a father figure in your life.
2. Host a Family and Food event (Moms and Muffins, Dads and Donuts, Books and Bagels, etc.) to encourage children and adults to read together.
3. Make a list of things a family member has done for you or helped you learn how to do.
4. Send someone a thank you card made using the torn paper technique Hope Anita Smith uses.
5. Write a poem about someone special to you.

## **More Resources**

1. Everything you need to serve fathers <https://www.fatherhood.org/>
2. National Center for Fathering <http://www.fathers.com/>
3. National Association for the Education of Young Children: For Families  
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/for-families>

## **Similar Books**

- *Mother Poems* by Hope Anita Smith
- *Building with Dad* by Carol Nevius
- *In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans celebrating fathers* by Folami Abiade and Dinah Johnson
- *Gone Fishing: A novel in verse* by Tamera Will Wissinger
- *Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: A collection of family poems* by Mary Ann Hoberman
- *The Fathers are Coming Home* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *Hug a Bull: An ode to animal dads* by Aaron Zenz
- *My Dad is the Best Playground* by Luciana Navarro Powell
- *My Daddy is a Giant* by Carl Norac
- *Daddy is My Hero* by Dawn Richards
- *All the Little Fathers* by Margaret Wise Brown

## **Related Nonfiction**

- *Animal Mothers and Fathers* by Mary Lindeen
- *Father's Day* by Ann Heinrichs
- *Mr. Lincoln's Boys: Being the mostly true adventures of Abraham Lincoln's trouble-makings sons, Tad and Willie* by Staton Rabin
- *Too Much Kissing!: And other silly dilly songs about parents* by Alan Katz
- *The Family Book: Amazing things to do together* by Complete Editions
- *You and Me Together: Moms, dads, and kids around the world* by Barbara Kerley
- *Things to Do with Dad: Lots of fun for everyone* by Chris Stevens



## Best in Snow

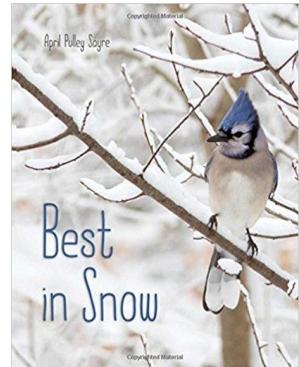
**Author:** April Pulley Sayre

**Publisher:** Beach Lane Books (Simon & Schuster)

**Publication Date:** 2016

**ISBN:** 9781481459167

**Grade Level:** Pre-School – Grade 3



### Description

Discover the wonderful world of snow with this companion to the celebrated Raindrops Roll! With gorgeous photo illustrations, award-winning author April Pulley Sayre sheds sparkly new light on the wonders of snow. From the beauty of snow blanketing the forest and falling on animals' fur and feathers to the fascinating winter water cycle, this nonfiction picture book celebrates snowfall and the amazing science behind it.

### Themes

Poem, Snow, Water Cycle, Winter

### Author Information

April Pulley Sayre is an award-winning children's book author of over 65 natural history books for children and adults. Her read-aloud nonfiction books, known for their lyricism and scientific precision, have been translated into French, Dutch, Japanese, and Korean. Sayre has followed lemurs in Madagascar, pursued army ants in Panama, and eaten piranha in the Peruvian Amazon. She and her husband, native plants expert Jeff Sayre, love science and adventure. Sayre is an expert speaker in the fields of writing, science education, children's literature, and wildlife gardening. Each year she speaks to over 15,000 students nationwide, introducing them to the writing process, the joy of words, the diversity of rain forests, and wacky things scientists do to find, follow, and study animals."For more information, please check out her website: <http://www.aprilsayre.com/about-me/#more-902>

### Discussion Questions

1. What is snow? If you had to describe snow, how would you do it? (Try for both a scientific approach and a lyrical approach)
2. Do you like snow? Why or why not?
3. Is all snow the same? Do you have a favorite type of snow? Why is it your favorite?
4. What do you like to do with snow?
5. Do you have any traditions when it snow?

### Activities

1. *Movement:* Dance to the Waltz of the Snowflakes from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker. Pay attention to the music. What type of snow are you during different types of the dance? Are you drifting down lazily or are you a furious blizzard? (Might be fun with scarves)



- 
2. *Craft*: Make your own snowflake! Get some white paper, and scissors and get folding and cutting. Instructions for making paper snowflakes can be found here:  
<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/seasons/winter/paper-snowflakes/>
  3. *STEAM Activity*: Observe Snowflakes. You will need a few things for this to work. Black construction paper, magnifying glasses & snow. The Teel Family website suggests freezing your construction paper so the snow won't melt too quickly. Grab your frozen paper, had outside and catch snowflakes on your black paper. Observe with your magnifying glass. Have students use the scientific method while doing this activity. Have them predict what actual snow might look like close up and draw it, have them perform the observation, and then record their observations.  
<http://www.maine-best-hotels.com/teelfamilycom/activities/snow/science.html>
  4. *Craft*: Sparkle Snow Paint.

Ingredients	Mix together and put in a squeeze bottle. Squeeze doughy paint out on to black construction paper. Make anything snowy, snowflakes, snowmen, - we made snow covered mountains with the moon and northern lights. Let dry thoroughly and it will sparkle. May also be painted (when dry) and allowed to dry again. This is a great 3 dimensional effect for snow.
1/2 cup flour	
1/2 cup salt	
1/2 cup water	
Black Construction Paper	

  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20001216123700/http://teelfamily.com:80/activities/snow/art.html>
  5. *Literature*: Write your own snow poem. If you're studying a specific poetry form, have your students write a poem about snow in that form. If not have them write any type of poem you'd like.

## **More Resources**

1. Michigan State University Extension: Includes links to Snow Activities, Snow Science and the Cryosphere Glossary: [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/snow\\_science\\_what\\_is\\_snow](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/snow_science_what_is_snow)
2. Education World: A Blizzard of Winter Lessons. Includes links to lots of websites and activities [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/A-Blizzard-of-Winter-Lessons.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/A-Blizzard-of-Winter-Lessons.shtml)
3. Wayback Machine Snow Activities: Includes Inuit words for snow as well as some fun activities: <http://web.archive.org/web/20010201215400/http://www.teelfamily.com:80/activities/snow/activities.html>
4. Hands on As We Grow: 32 different activities to try:  
<https://handsonaswegrow.com/32-snow-theme-activities-kids/>
5. STEAM Powered Family: Hands on activities:  
<https://www.steampoweredfamily.com/activities/winter-stem-activities/>

## **Similar Books**

- *It's Snowing* by Gail Gibbons
- *A Snowstorm Shows Off* by Belinda Jensen
- *It's Snowing! It's Snowing!: Winter Poems* by Jack Prelutsky



- 
- *Raindrops Roll* by April Pulley Sayre
  - *Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold* by Joyce Sidman

#### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Into the White: Scott's Arctic Odyssey* by Joanna Grochowicz
- *It's Winter* by Joyce Jeffries
- *Weather* by Ellen Lawrence
- *Forrest Mims's Science Experiments: DIY projects from the pages of Make* by Forrest Mims
- *Snow* by Jenny Fretland VanVoorst



## Rolling Thunder

**Author:** Kate Messner

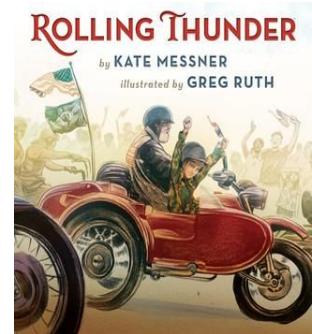
**Illustrator:** Greg Ruth

**Publisher:** Scholastic Press

**Publication Date:** April 25, 2017

**ISBN:** 978-0545470124

**Grade Level:** 5+



### Description

Every Memorial Day in Washington, DC, more than a million veterans and their supporters gather for the Rolling Thunder® Ride for Freedom, a demonstration that pays tribute to the men and women of the US armed forces. This lyrical story honors the bravery and sacrifice of those American heroes -- the ones who have returned home, and the ones who haven't.

### Themes:

Memorial Day, MIA: Missing in Action, Motorcycle Rides: Ride for Freedom, Prisoners of War, Veterans, Vietnam Veterans Memorial

### Author Information:

Kate Messner is an award-winning author whose books for kids have been New York Times Notable, Junior Library Guild, IndieBound, and Bank Street College of Education Best Books selections. She lives on Lake Champlain with her family and loves spending time outside, whether it's kayaking in the summer or skating on the frozen lake when the temperatures drop.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is a Veteran?
2. Do you have any members of your family that has been in a war? If so, which war(s).
3. Why are the Veterans riding in the Ride for Freedom parade?
4. What is Memorial Day?
5. How do you honor / remember people in the community who have served in the military?

### Activities:

1. Learn the story of the Poppy: <https://www.legion.org/poppyday/history>. Make a poppy to wear and/or give away, and explain its meaning. YouTube video: How to make an Anzac Day memorial poppy : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qe0uqc6ImgQ>.
2. Learn what the colors of the flag of the United States of America mean: <http://www.usflag.org/colors.html>. Copy a coloring sheet of the USA Flag, to color. Have children explain the colors. [https://www.bigactivities.com/coloring/veterans\\_day/flags/images/american\\_flag.png](https://www.bigactivities.com/coloring/veterans_day/flags/images/american_flag.png).
3. Make a Class Remembering Wall: Have the children write down family /community members that have served in the military. Living and/or deceased, on a brick paper. Decorate a bulletin board / hall with the bricks.
4. Review bicycle safety. <https://one.ntsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/BSKitBoth/3152BSKit/pages/Section1/Section1TOC.html>.



- 
5. Write a letter to a Deployed Troop / Veteran / New Recruit or First Responder.  
<https://www.operationgratitude.com/express-your-thanks/write-letters>.

#### **More Resources:**

1. Check out the Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom videos on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IMzZNlw9KY>.
2. Watch the video of the Saluting Marine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrlgWMMBHAI>. Discuss what it means to salute someone.  
<http://www.qmmuseum.lee.army.mil/history/vignettes/respect1.html>.
3. Symbols of the United States activity book :  
<http://seisdborrego.ss4.sharpschool.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=4345111>
4. Learn patriotic songs such as : This is my country:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AjFFjfn0xMY>
5. Play Bingo United States style:  
<http://deceptivelyeducational.blogspot.com/2014/10/united-states-bingo-teachers-edition.html>.
6. Learn the Pledge of Allegiance, and learn what the words mean.

#### **Similar Books:**

- *Scramble States of America & Scramble States of America Talent Show* by Laurie Keller
- *The Founding Fathers! Those Horse-ridin'; Fiddle playn'; Book readin'; Gun totin' Gentlemen who Started America* by Jonah Winter
- *What Presidents are made of* by Hanoch Piven
- *Veterans: Heroes in our Neighborhood* by Valerie Pfundstein
- *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message* by Chief Jake Swamp

#### **Related Non-fiction:**

- *Veterans Day / The American Eagle / The American Flag* by Lynda Sorensen
- *A flag for our Country* by Eve Spencer
- *The 50 States* by Gabrielle Balkan
- *The Book of Heroes* by Crispin Boyer / *The Book of Heroines* by Stephanie Warren Drimmer
- *This is the Place! A crossroads of Utah's Past* by Pat Bagley



## Catching a Storyfish

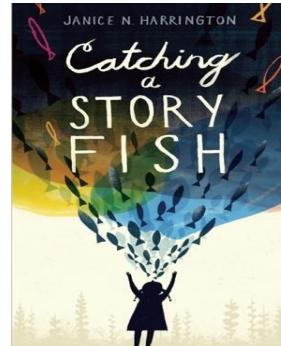
**Author:** Janice N. Harrington

**Publisher:** WordSong

**Publication Date:** September, 20, 2016

**ISBN:** 978 162 979 4297

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>



### Description

Keet knows the only good thing about moving away from her Alabama home is that she'll live near her beloved grandfather. When Keet starts school, it's even worse than she expected, as the kids tease her about her southern accent. Now Keet, who can "talk the whiskers off a catfish," doesn't want to open her mouth. Slowly, though, while fishing with her grandfather, she learns the art of listening. Gradually, she makes her first new friend. But just as she's beginning to settle in, her grandfather has a stroke, and even though he's still nearby, he suddenly feels ever-so-far-away. Keet is determined to reel him back to her by telling him stories; in the process she finds her voice and her grandfather again. This lyrical and deeply emotional novel-in-verse celebrates the power of story and of finding one's individual voice.

### Themes

Girls. Grandfathers. Grandparent and child. Storytelling. Fishing. Dialect/Accents. Friendship. Family. Moving. New Schools. Bullying. Writing.

### Author Information

Harrington's writing reflects her beginnings in rural Alabama and her life in the Midwest. A former librarian and professional storyteller, Harrington now teaches creative writing in the Department of English at the University of Illinois. Janice's literary agent (for children's books only) is Stephen Fraser at The Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency.

### Discussion Questions

1. What role do stories play in our lives?
2. Do you have a close relationship with an older adult that is not one of your parents? How would you feel if they were injured and not able to be there for you as they usually are?
3. What would you do if you had to move to a new school in a new state? How would you feel? How would you try to make friends?
4. Have you or one of your friends or family members ever been bullied? What did you do about it? What could you have done about it?
5. Who is your best friend? How did you meet? What do you like to do together? Why are you friends? What do you do to stay friends? How do you help each other when you have a hard time?



## Activities

### 1. Fish Craft

- Take paper of any color and cut out an oval shape.
- Draw on your fish's face. On one end of the oval.
- Take cupcake liners (same color or various).
- You can either cut the cupcake liners in half to use less, or fold them in half to give more of a 3D look.
- Glue liners on the oval like gills, the fish's face without gills.
- Take 3 more cupcake liners. Cut off about 1/5 of the liner, leaving a straight line. From the center of that straight line, make a 45 degree angle cut on the left and another 45 degree angle cut on the right.
- Use these 3 liners and glue on as the fan tail, and the upper and lower fins.



2. Spelling Bee: Form two or more teams. Each team takes a turn. The child at the front of the line is given a word to spell. If they spell successfully, they go to the end of the line and wait for their turn to come up again. If they spell it wrong, they can have a seat again. All players are encouraged to be great cheerleaders for all teams and team members, whether the words are spelled correctly or not.

Some word lists by grades can be found here:

- <http://www.biqkids.com/SpellingVocabulary/Lessons/wordlistFinder.shtml>
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/basic-spelling-vocabulary-list>
- <https://www.spellingcity.com/sample-spelling-lists.html>

### 3. Diving Fish Experiment – how fish rise and sink in the water

<http://www.schoolingamonkey.com/diving-fish-science-experiment/> (You can forego decorating the ketchup packet to look like a fish. The kids will get the idea.)

### 4. Physical Storytelling:

- For younger kids:  
<https://healthymeals.fns.usda.gov/state-resources/stories-motion-%E2%80%93-physical-activity-breaks>
- For older kids (and younger, too, but older get a kick out of this!): Print and cut out these simple stick figure yoga positions. Choose a familiar short story to tell from memory, or a picture book. As you tell it, show the flashcards one at a time to the children. The children have to imitate the pose they are seeing. Switch to new flashcards throughout the story.  
<http://www.camillesprimaryideas.com/2014/05/position-cards-review.html>

5. Creative Storytelling: Children create their own short story, 3 or 4 paragraphs at most. Some may want to write it down; others can think of something to tell—something that happened for real or completely made up. If any are willing, let them share their story before the audience (either reading from their paper or telling from the top of their head—both are great storytelling skills). Some stories will not flow or make sense, but they are learning about storytelling itself. Art and skill of storytelling comes with more practice, reading, speaking, and imagining!



## **More Resources**

1. Stop Bullying videos for kids. Includes a character starting at a new school, and being friends with someone who is bullied. <https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/webisodes/index.html>
2. Teaching Storytelling tips  
<http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/1028681/ways-to-teach-your-kids-storytelling>
3. Teaching kids what a stroke is  
<http://theblueroom.bupa.com.au/manage-and-recover/stroke/helping-kids-understand-stroke/>
4. Helping Kids learn how to make friends
  - o <http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&id=1705&np=286>
  - o <https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/common-challenges/making-keeping-friends/at-a-glance-4-skills-for-making-friends>
  - o <https://childmind.org/article/kids-who-need-a-little-help-to-make-friends/>
5. Writing resources and ideas  
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/25-ways-get-kids-writing/>

## **Similar Books**

- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton
- *The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones* by Wendelin Van Draanen
- *Words with Wings* by Nikki Grimes
- *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* by Rita Williams-Garcia

## **Related Non-fiction**

- *Silly and Sillier: Read Aloud Tales from Around the World* by Judy Sierra
- *Fish Tricks: The Wild and Wacky World of Fish* by Haude Levesque
- *Can I Tell You about Having a Stroke?* by Lisa Taylor
- *New Kid, New Scene: A Guide to Moving and Switching Schools* by Debbie Glasser
- *Stand Up for Yourself & Your Friends: Dealing with Bullies & Bossiness and Finding a Better Way* by Patti Kelley Criswell



## One Minute till Bedtime

**Author:** Kenn Nesbitt (ed)

**Publisher:** Little, Brown and Company

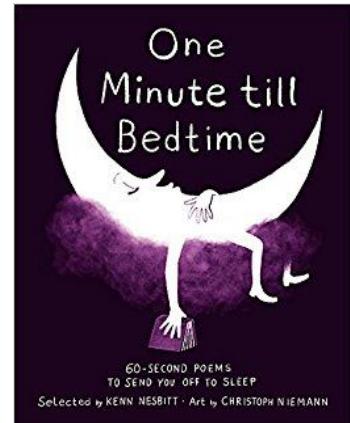
**Publication Date:** 2016

**ISBN:** 9780316341219

**Grade Level:** K-3

### Description

It's Time for tuck-in, and your little one wants just one more moment with you—so fill it with something that will feed the imagination, fuel a love reading, and send them off to sleep in a snap. Reach for a one-minute poem! Former Children's Poet Laureate Kenn Nesbitt presents a blockbuster collection of all-new poetry penned by some of the most beloved and celebrated poets of our time, including Jack Prelutsky, Jon Scieszka, MaryAnn Hoberman, Nikki Grimes, Lemony Snickett, Jane Yolen, and many more. Illuminated with dreamlike wit and whimsy by *New York Times* illustrator and award-winning artist Christoph Niemann, here is a new bedtime classic. When the busy day is drawing to a close and the whole family is ready for rest, take a minute for poetry and send your little one off to sleep.



### Themes

Animals, Bedtime, Children's Poetry, Family Relationships, Poetics, Play, School Children, Sleep

### Author Information

Kenn Nesbitt was born in Berkeley, California. He grew up in Fresno and San Diego and attended National University in San Diego, where he majored in computer science. Nesbitt's poetry for children is "irrepressible, unpredictable, and raucously popular," in the words of former Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis. Nesbitt's poems frequently deal with humorous, relatable situations that verge on the madcap. He is the author of numerous books of poetry for children. Nesbitt's poems have appeared in hundreds of anthologies, magazines, and textbooks worldwide, and were included on the television show "Jack Hanna's Wildlife Adventures." Nesbitt is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. His website, Poetry4kids, is an online "Funny Poetry Playground" that features poems, lessons, games, and poetry-related activities. He currently lives in Spokane, Washington with his wife, children, and pets.

### Discussion Questions

1. What do you do when you can't go to sleep?
2. The poem called "Happy Visits" (pg 100) is about the things a child likes to do with his grandparents. What are your favorite things to do with your grandparents?
3. In the poem "I dreamed I Met a Unicorn" on page 163, the poet writes about a dream of a unicorn. Can you remember any of your dreams? What are your favorite kind of dreams?
4. The poem called "It's Routine" (pg 67) is a list of things that different children like to do before they go to bed. What is your bedtime routine?



5. "My lips are zipped—they're shut quite tight. No peas will pass through them tonight." That's a line from the poem on page 144. What is your least-favorite vegetable? What do you do when you have to eat it anyway?
6. Without reading any of the poems, turn the pages of the book looking just at the pictures. Which one is your favorite? Why do you like it? Now read the poem that goes with that picture. How do the picture and the poem work together?

### **Activities**

1. Pick one of your favorite poems from the book and draw your own picture to illustrate it.
2. Write a poem of your own. You could write about your family, your pets, your house, your school, your backyard, or anything else you love.
3. Go to Kenn Nesbitt's website, [poetry4kids.com](http://poetry4kids.com), and sign up for his weekly email. Then you can read a new poem every week.
4. Pick a poem you especially liked in the book. Who wrote it? Find out if the library has other books by that poet, then check one out and read it too.
5. Write a letter to a poet. It could be the editor of this book or one of the poets you find inside it. Tell him or her a little bit about yourself and what you like about the poems. Ask a parent to help you find a way to mail it to the poet.

### **More Resources**

1. <http://www.poetry4kids.com/>. Kenn Nesbitt's website with poetry and poetry activities.
2. <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poems-kids>. The poets.org section with poems for kids to read. The poems are organized into many different topics.
3. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children/videos>. Videos of poems being read outloud.
4. <http://www.readwritethink.org/>. Ideas for parents to get children involved with poetry, writing, and reading.

### **Similar Books**

- *Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems* edited by Paul B. Janeczko
- *Julie Andrews' Treasury for All Seasons: Poems and Songs to Celebrate the Year* edited by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton
- *National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems with Photographs that Float, Zoom, and Bloom!* edited by J. Patrick Lewis
- *Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes* edited by Elizabeth Hammill
- *Over the Moon: The Broadway Lullaby Project* by Kate Dawson
- *Poem Depot: Aisles of Smiles* by Douglas Florian