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# **Book Kits for the 2020 Beehive Book Awards Poetry Book Nominees**

***Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship***

***Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon***

***Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess***

***Song of the Wild: A First Book of Animals***

***This is the Nest That Robin Built***

## **Runner Up Titles**

***The Flying Girl: How Aida de Costa Learned to Soar***

***With My Hands: Poems about Making Things***



# Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship

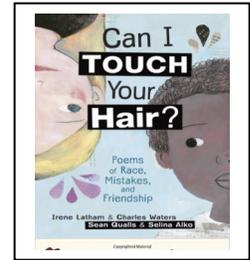
Author/Illustrator: Irene Latham & Charles Waters / Sean Qualls & Selina Alko

Publisher: Carolrhoda Books (an imprint of Lerner Books)

Publication Date: 2018

ISBN: 9781512404425

Grade Level: 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>



## Description

"[A]n unusually candid book for pre-YA kids about race and difference, allowing for the possibility of the mistakes (the word is right in the subtitle) but also a hopeful outcome as Irene and Charles find enrichment in their friendship."—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

## Themes

Race, friendship, school, children, teachers, classrooms, learning, relationships, mistakes, community, emotions and feelings

## Author/Illustrator Information

Irene Latham is the author of more than a dozen current and forthcoming works of poetry, fiction, and picture books, including *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship* (co-written with Charles Waters). Winner of the 2016 ILA Lee Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award, she became obsessed with octopuses after reading *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery. Just like Agnes, she enjoys sending—and receiving—postcards. Visit her at [www.irenelatham.com](http://www.irenelatham.com).

Charles Waters is a children's poet, actor, and author. His poems have appeared in various anthologies including: *One Minute Till Bedtime* and *The National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry*. Charles performs his one-person show as well as conducts poetry performance and writing workshops for elementary and middle school audiences. He lives in New York City. <https://www.charleswaterspoetry.com/>

## Discussion Questions

1. Which of the poems in the book did you like the most? Why?
2. Which did you like the least?
3. Can you relate to any of the poems because of an experience you have had at school or home, with your friends or family?
4. Which of the characters in the poems can you relate to? Why?
5. Do you think you would like to work on a poetry project with a partner, like Charles & Irene did in the book?
6. What do you think about the illustrations that accompany the poems in the book?

## Activities

1. Partner Poem Project: Find a partner and brainstorm ideas you could write a poem about. Is there something you have experienced at school, home, or in your community, you could focus on?
2. Using your choice of materials, make illustrations about a time when you felt different from your peers, or like you did not fit in with a certain group of people.
3. What is your typical dinnertime like in your home with your family? Create a collage about this with a partner and then talk about the differences & similarities. Use different objects for your collage, such as: paper, pencils/markers/crayons/paint, glue, found nature objects, pictures & words from magazines, art supplies such as cotton balls, yarn/twine/string, pipe cleaners, pom poms, construction paper, buttons,



etc.

4. Talk with a classmate who is of a different cultural/ethnic or racial background than yourself. Ask them questions about their experiences in school & home, then write a reflection piece on what you learned from them. What did you learn that is different or the same as your experiences at school and at home with your family?

### **More Resources**

- The Children's Book Podcast interview with the authors:
- <http://lgbpodcast.libsyn.com/irene-latham-and-charles-waters> (July 2018)
- Interview with authors Charles Waters & Irene Latham:  
<https://buildingfuturereaders.com/2017/12/05/author-interview-charles-waters-and-irene-latham/>  
(December 2017)
- Sample lesson plans from Teaching Books for story map. Log-in required to access full lesson plan.
- [https://www.teachingbooks.net/clp.cgi?master\\_id=54440&lf\\_id=9](https://www.teachingbooks.net/clp.cgi?master_id=54440&lf_id=9)
- Support materials from Reading is Fundamental:
- <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/can-i-touch-your-hair-poems-race-mistakes-and-friendship>
- Interview with author Sharee Miller about her book *Don't Touch my Hair*
- <https://ew.com/books/2018/11/12/sharee-miller-dont-touch-my-hair/>
- <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2017/11/why-am-i-me/>

### **Similar Books**

#### **Geared for PreK-6 grades**

- *School People* edited by Lee Bennet Hopkins
- *Why am I Me?* By Paige Britt
- *Don't Touch My Hair* by Sharee Miller
- *The Watcher* by Nikki Grimes
- *Friends and Foes: Poems about Us All* by Douglas Florian
- *That is My Dream!: a Picture Book of Langston Hughes's "Dream Variation"* ill. by Daniel Miyares
- *Bronzeville Boys and Girls* by Gwendolyn Brooks; ill. by Faith Ringgold
- *Hey Black Child* by Eugene Perkins; ill. by Brian Collier
- *Night Guard* by Synne Lea; ill. by Stian Hole (translated from the Norwegian by John Irons)
- *First Food Fight this Fall and Other School Poems* by Marilyn Singer
- *Did You Hear What I Heard?: Poems about School* by Kay Winters
- *There's No Place Like School: Classroom Poems* by Jack Prelutsky

#### **Geared for 6-12 grades**

- *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams
- *Like Vanessa* by Tami Charles
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *Famous* by Naomi Shihab Nye

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford;
- *The Bell Rang* by James E. Ransome
- *Ella Sings the Blues* by Helen Hancocks
- *Confronting Racism* by Mary Ellen Lo Bosco



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- *What's the Difference: Being Different is Amazing* by Doyin Richards
  - *What Makes Us Unique?: Our First Talk about Diversity* by Jillian Roberts
  - *The Case for Loving: the Fight for interracial Marriage* by Selina Alko
  - *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh
  - *Seeds of Freedom: the Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama* by Hester Bass
  - *Let's Talk about Race* by Julius Lester
  - *Not My Idea: a Book about Whiteness* by Anastasia Higginbotham



# Countdown 2979 Days to the Moon

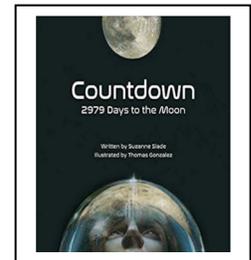
Author: Suzanne Slade

Publisher: Peachtree

Publication Date: 2018

ISBN: 978-1-68263-013-6

Grade Level: 4<sup>th</sup> and older



## Description

Powerful free verse and stunning illustrations tell the true story of the American effort to land the first man on the Moon.

## Themes

Project Apollo (U.S.) Juvenile Literature, Space flight to the moon History Juvenile Literature

## Author/Illustrator Information

Suzanne Slade is the award-winning author of over one hundred books for children. Some of her recent titles include Friends for Freedom: The True Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, Climbing Lincoln's Steps (a Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Children and Paterson Prize for Books for Young People), The House That George Built (a Junior Library Guild Selection and Bank Street College of Education Best Book of the Year), and Booker T. Washington: Teacher, Speaker, and Leader. She lives in Illinois.

## Discussion Questions

1. A visionary is someone who thinks about the future in a creative and imaginative way, someone with a powerful plan for change. How was Kennedy a visionary? • What role did Kennedy's dream play in the Space
2. How did NASA respond to the Apollo 1 tragedy? What steps did they take to understand what occurred?
3. The word tranquility means silence, peace, or quietness. Why do you think the huge crater on the Moon was called the Sea of Tranquility?
4. Interpret Armstrong's statement, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."
5. Discuss the significance of placing an Apollo 1 patch on the surface of the Moon. How does this act symbolize the commitment, dedication, and teamwork of the entire Apollo Project?

## Activities

1. The Solar System: The students will learn about the Solar System, the order of the 8 planets, special words such as orbit and asteroid. <http://www.teacher.org/lesson-plan/solar-system-2/>
2. NASA Kids Club: <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>
3. Celebrate Appollo as we push towards the moon: Youtube video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVNH0X\\_jWvo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVNH0X_jWvo)
4. DIY make moon sand: <http://lessonslearntjournal.com/d-i-y-moon-sand-or-cloud-dough/>
5. DIY PAPER MACHE ASTRONAUT HELMET <https://acarriedaffairblog.com/diy-paper-mache-astronaut-helmet/>

## More Resources

- Storytime from space: <https://storytimefromspace.com/>
- International Space Station: Live Inside Space Station Viewing Sunita Williams Space Journey Tour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7-pLfU0Z1Q>



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### **Similar Books**

- *CatStronauts: Mission Moon* by Drew Brockington.
- *Curious George Gets a Medal* by H.A. Rey
- *Aliens in Underpants Save the World* by Claire Freedman
- *Zim Zam Zoom: Zappy Poems to Read Out Loud* by James Carter
- *Rocket Boys: October Sky* by Homer H. Hickman

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: the Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins* by Bea Uusma Schyffert
- *Mapping the World: Stories of Geography* by Caroline Laffon
- *Team Moon: How 400,000 people Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon* by Catherine Thimmesh,



# Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess

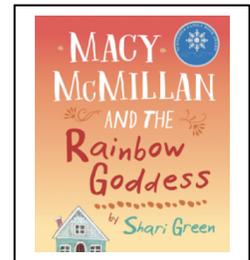
Author: Shari Green

Publisher: Pajama Press

Publication Date: 2017

ISBN: 9781772780338

Grade Level: 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>



## Description

Olivia has been Macy McMillan's best friend ever since Macy transferred to Hamilton Elementary from Braeside School for the Deaf. But then their sixth-grade teacher assigned that embarrassing family tree project, and Olivia made a joke about Macy's father, and now neither girl is speaking—or signing—to the other. It couldn't have happened at a worse time. With her mother getting married and an ugly For Sale sign jammed into their yard, Macy could really use a best friend right now. But it seems the only person who has time for her these days is Iris Gillan from next door. And it's not like a crabby old woman who doesn't even know sign language is going to be any comfort. Right?

## Themes

Blended Families, Children and Remarriage, Deaf, Families, Friendship, Girls and Senior Women, Girls who are Deaf, Intergenerational Friendship, Middle School, Moving, Household, Neighbors, Sixth Grade Girls, Stepfamilies

## Author/Illustrator Information

Shari Green is an award-winning author of middle grade verse novels. Her books have been nominated for multiple provincial and state readers'-choice programs and included on international "best of" lists.

Her 2016 debut MG novel, *Root Beer Candy and Other Miracles*, was a White Ravens selection and a CCBC Best Books for Kids and Teens starred selection. Her 2017 book, *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess*, was an ALA Schneider Family Book Award winner, IODE Violet Downey Book Award finalist, and a Junior Library Guild Selection. Her latest novel, *Missing Mik*, launched in May 2018 (September 2018 in the U.S.) and is a 2019

In her non-writing life, Shari works as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She's in love with stories and the sea, and can often be found curled up with a good book and a cup of tea, or wandering the beaches near her home on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada. Shari is married to her high-school sweetheart and has four grown children.

Shari is a member of CWILL-BC and SCBWI.

## Discussion Questions

1. "Maybe finding home/is about following/your story." Macy writes this at the end of the book, when she is at a new part of her own story (new school, new friends, new house). What does this idea mean to you? How are the concepts of "home" and "story" connected?
2. Iris has a lot of books that have influenced her life. What books have influenced yours? What impact did they have on you? How do you think *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess* will influence your life?
3. Were you surprised that a deaf person was able to interact so well in a traditional school? Do you have any deaf friends? How does Macy's deafness influence her life story, and how does it not?
4. This is a story that is about connections—between family, friends, neighbors, teachers. What connections are important in your life? What do you do to try to strengthen or deepen them? Is there a relationship you'd like to improve?
5. "Sometimes life goes in directions/you don't expect," Macy understands by the end of the book. How has your life changed in ways you didn't ever imagine? How did you cope with it?



## **Activities**

1. Go to a local nursery and see what flowers are available. Ask one of the workers which flowers grow particularly well in your area. If you have the time and resources, buy a flower and learn how to plant and care for it.
2. Using an online resource or a book from your library, learn some basic sign language.
3. Create an art-based project of your family history. Macy makes a leaf-shaped booklet, but you could do anything—a family tree, a scrapbook, even a video like Jennifer Blister.
4. Pick an older family member and ask him or her to tell you some family stories. You could record these or write them down.
5. Macy and Iris share poems with each other. Check out a book from your library about writing poetry and write one of your own. Then share it with someone!

## **More Resources**

- National Association for the Deaf: [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org). Resources, connections, and experiences for members of the deaf community.
- Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry for Kids: [www.poetryforkids.com](http://www.poetryforkids.com). A “poetry playground for kids,” this website offers poetry, writing exercises, and books for kids interested in poetry.
- Kids Gardening: [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org). Lessons and resources for kids interested in gardening.
- The Family History Guide: <https://www.thefhguide.com/act-children.html>. Resources for kids to get started with researching family history.

## **Similar Books**

- *Eggs over Evie* by Alison Jackson
- *Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry
- *The Four Seasons of Patrick* by Susan Hughes
- *Nobody's Perfect* by Marlee Matlin and Doug Cooney
- *Song for a Whale* by Lynn Kelly

## **Related Non-fiction**

- *Cool Nature: Filled with Facts and Projects for Kids of All Ages* by Amy-Jane Beer
- *How to Research your Ancestry* by Tamra Orr
- *How to Write Poems* by Wes Magee
- *Jabberwalking* by Juan Felipe Herrera
- *Seed to Plant* by Kristin Baird Rattini



# Song of the Wild: A First Book of Animals

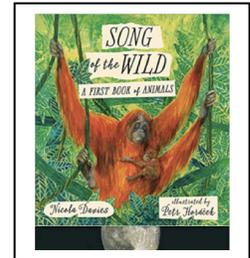
Author: Nicola Davies

Publisher: Candlewick

Publication Date: October 3, 2017

ISBN: 978-0763691608

Grade Level: PreK - 2nd



## Description

Butterflies migrating south, polar bears playing on the ice, tigers hunting in the jungle, and nightingales singing in the heart of the woods--there are animals everywhere. The poems in this remarkable collection are beautifully crafted and full of keenly observed details about animals of every color, shape, and size--from giant blue whales to bats as small as bumblebees. With words by renowned author Nicola Davies and pictures by one of the U.K.'s finest illustrators, Petr Horáček, this book celebrates life in the wild in all its dazzling variety and splendor.

## Themes

Adaptations, Animals, Behavior, Characterization, Comparisons, Habitats, Nature, Poetry, Wildlife

## Author/Illustrator Information

Nicola Davies is an award-winning author whose many books for children include *Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature*, *The Promise*, *Tiny Creatures*, *Big Blue Whale*, *Just Ducks!*, and the Heroes of the Wild series. She has a degree in zoology and has studied whales and bats and worked for the BBC's Natural History Unit. Her website is <https://www.nicola-davies.com/>. Illustrator Petr Horáček wrote a blog post on [Picture Book Party](#) about working on the illustrations.

## Discussion Questions

1. Nicola Davies said, "I've always loved to close my eyes and think about all the different animals alive right now in the world. Even if I never see them for real, it delights me to know they are there." Which animals in this book have you seen in real life?
2. Nicola Davies is a zoologist and an author. If you could combine two jobs like she has, what two jobs would you choose and why?
3. The poem "Song of the Biggest and the Smallest Birds" talks about ways that ostriches and hummingbirds are the same because they are both birds. What are some things about ostriches and hummingbirds that are the same?
4. If you could choose one animal that doesn't normally live in Utah's habitat to be able to live here, which animal would it be and why?
5. In the poem "Cute as a Newt" Nicola Davies shares her opinion that, "...there's nothing, no, there's nothing that is as cute as a newt." Do you agree or disagree with her opinion? What is an opinion you have about another animal that other people may or may not agree with?

## Activities

1. Make an origami animal like this [fox](#) or make a [folded corner animal bookmark](#) to use while reading your favorite books.
2. Make a [paper strip sphere](#) and add details to it to make it into an awesome animal.
3. Rewrite an animal nursery rhyme such as "Hickory, Dickory, Dock" or "Hey Diddle Diddle" to feature different animals of your choosing. Draw a picture to go with your new rhyme.
4. Perform a skit of a favorite animal fable or original story.
5. Do some animal yoga poses like



the ones in the book *You are a Lion! And Other Fun Yoga Poses* by Tae-eun Yoo, or find some online at <https://www.kidsyogastories.com/kids-yoga-poses/>

6. Interview someone (in person or through email) who works with animals (veterinarian, zoo keeper, shelter volunteer). Ask them your questions and share what you learn with others.
7. Create animal art with food. Along with cookie cutters and utensils, gather a variety of ingredients like: bread slices, cheese slices, crackers, pretzel sticks and knots, cubed cheese, raisins, grapes, celery, grated cheese, cream cheese and peanut butter to naturally stick ingredients together. Use the food choices to make a variety of animals. Then eat them!

### **More Resources**

- National Geographic for Kids - Animals <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/>
- San Diego Zoo for Kids <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/>
- Smithsonian's National Zoo <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/>
- Wild Kratts on PBS Kids <https://pbskids.org/wildkratts/>
- Science Kids Science Facts - Animals <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals.html>

### **Similar Books**

- *Beastly Verse* (anthology) illustrated by JooHee Yoon
- *How to Be an Elephant: Growing Up in the African Wild* by Katherine Roy
- *Lesser Spotted Animals: The Coolest Animals You've Never Heard of* by Martin Brown
- *Cute as an Axolotl: Discovering the World's Most Adorable Animals* by Jess Keating
- *Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics* by Steve Jenkins
- *A Place to Start a Family: Poems about Creatures that Build* by David L. Harrison
- *Hidden Wildlife: How Animals Hide in Plain Sight* by Jim Arnosky
- *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner

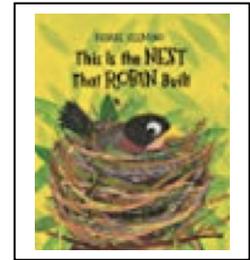
### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Hello Hello* by Brendan Wenzel
- *Listen to Our World* by Bill Martin
- *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin
- *One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree* by Daniel Bernstrom
- *Dancing Feet* by Lindsey Craig



# This is the Nest that Robin Built

**Author:** Denise Fleming  
**Publisher:** Beach Lane Books  
**Publication Date:** March 2018  
**ISBN:** 978-1481430838  
**Grade Level:** PreK – 3rd



## Description

Farm animals pitch in with things Robin can use to build a soft nest, ready for eggs. In the style of *The House That Jack Built*.

## Themes

Birds, Eggs, Nests, Spring

## Author/Illustrator Information

<https://www.candacefleming.com/>

## Discussion Questions

1. What are some other animals that build nests?
2. What are other nests made of?
3. Where besides trees do animals build their nests?
4. What other animals lay eggs?
5. Are there some things you can do to help birds?

## Activities

1. Purchase wire kitchen whisks from a dollar store. Have children collect grass, small twigs, pieces of yarn, feathers, and cotton to poke inside whisks. Hang whisks from branches or other spots where birds can find them when building their nests.
2. Let children help attach (loosely with cotton strings) items for birds to use in nest building to a grapevine or other twig or straw wreath. Hang in a quiet place where birds might come.
3. Fill dishpan or other similar container with bird seed. Hide small prizes in seeds. Let children take turns running fingers through seeds to find a prize.
4. Let children examine different kinds of bird feeders and bird food (raw, unshelled peanuts for blue jays, small black sunflower seeds, other grains and feed.)
5. Make binoculars out of empty toilet paper rolls, glued together and attach yarn so they can be hung around neck. Go for a walk and use binoculars to search for birds.

## More Resources

- See separate document of pictures

## Similar Books

- *The House I'll Build for the Wrens* by Shirley Neitzel
- *Birds* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Best Nest* by P. D. Eastman
- *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr. Seuss
- *Guess*

*What Is Growing Inside*



*This Egg* by Mia Posada

**Related Non-fiction**

- Check out the 598 section of the library!

Supplemental Pictures for Activity #2



















# The Flying Girl: How Aida de Acosta Learned to Soar

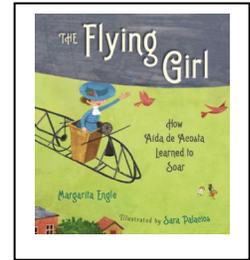
Author/Illustrator: Margarita Engle/Sara Palacios

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Publication Date: March 2018

ISBN: 9781481445023

Grade Level: Preschool – 3rd



## Description

In this beautiful picture book filled with soaring words and buoyant illustrations, award-winners Margarita Engle and Sara Palacios tell the inspiring true story of Aída de Acosta, the first woman to fly a motorized aircraft.

## Themes

Airships, Aviation/Flight, Biography, Courage, Determination, Persistence, Transportation, Women Air Pilots, Women's History

## Author/Illustrator Information

Margarita Engle is the 2017-2019 national Young People's Poet Laureate, the winner of the 2019 NSK Neustadt International Prize, and a 2019 Astrid Lindgren Award nominee. She is the Cuban-American author of many verse novels. Sara Palacios is the recipient of the 2012 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Award. A native of Mexico, Sara graduated from the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico City and went on to earn BFA and MFA degrees in Illustration from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. More information at [www.margaritaengle.com](http://www.margaritaengle.com) and <https://www.sarapalaciosillustrations.com/>

## Discussion Questions

1. What was Aída's wild dream? Was she right to go after it?
2. Aída said, "Sometimes, all it takes to change the whole world is one wild dreamer's soaring example." Do you agree? Can dreamers change the world?
3. What do you think of Alberto's views and actions compared to what most people of the time? How do you think he came to be that way? Would you stand up as he did?
4. How do you think Aida contributed to aviation? What is a field you would like to contribute to and what ideas do you have to do so?
5. Have you ever been told you have a wild idea or a silly dream? How did it make you feel? What did you want to do about it?

## Activities

6. Build different aircrafts from various materials besides paper—toothpicks, marshmallows, etc. Hold a competition to see how well they fly.
7. Try various tasks wearing outlandish costumes or clothing items to get an idea of what it was like for Aida to try flying in her dress. Jump rope with swim flippers on, or try to fold paper wearing gloves.
8. Make a timeline of women who helped make great changes in history. Have a broad list or narrow it down to a field like science or literature.
9. Learn about and practice specific elements of flight with these Smithsonian suggested activities. <https://howthingsfly.si.edu/activities>
10. Write a short story about flight. Choose any vehicle you want to fly in or make one up. Choose a location or destination. The story can be realistic or fantasy.

## More Resources

- BBC History Magazine website: <https://www.historyextra.com/100-women/100-women-results/>
- Biography Online website:



<https://www.biographyonline.net/people/women-who-changed-world.html>

- Common Core Curriculum Guide to *The Flying Girl*:  
[http://d28hgpr18am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged\\_assets/3925495/9781481445023\\_cg\\_the%20flying%20girl.pdf](http://d28hgpr18am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/3925495/9781481445023_cg_the%20flying%20girl.pdf)
- General Aviation website: <http://www.aviation.com/>
- Museum of Flight website: <http://www.museumofflight.org/>
- US Department of Transportation Aviation webpage: <https://www.transportation.gov/aviation>

### **Similar Books**

- *Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride* by Marjorie Priceman.
- *Flight School* by Lita Judge.
- *Flying* by Donald Crews
- *Up, Up, Up* by Susan Reed
- *My Brave Year of Firsts: Tries, Sighs, and High Fives* by Jamie Lee Curtis

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *A Picture Book of Amelia Earhart* by David A. Adler
- *Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell* by Tanya Lee Stone
- *For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai's Story* by Rebecca Langston-George
- *A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider: The Story of E.B. White* by Barbara Herkert
- *The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath* by Julia Mosca
- *Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist* by Jess Keating



## **With My Hands: Poems about Making Things**

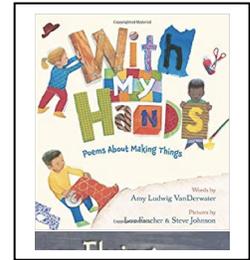
**Author/Illustrator: Amy Ludwig VanDerwater / Lou Fancher & Steve Johnson**

**Publisher: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**

**Publication Date: 2018**

**ISBN: 9780544313408**

**Grade Level: Preschool – 2nd**



### **Description**

Building, baking, folding, drawing, shaping . . . making something with your own hands is a special, personal experience. Taking an idea from your imagination and turning it into something real is satisfying and makes the maker proud. *With My Hands* is an inspiring invitation to tap into creativity and enjoy the hands-on energy that comes from making things.

### **Themes**

Poetry, Making, Painting, Building, Play, Imagination

### **Author/Illustrator Information**

"From cookies to poems, I was and am always happiest making things. The feeling of a hat growing from a strand of wool or a poem growing from a page of cross outs holds for me a twinkle of magic. There was nothing...and now there is something...and I made it! Making books feels extra magical because so many people work together, and what begins as just words on a page becomes something new as it is touched by agent, editor, illustrator, designer, and so many talented hands." For more information on Amy Ludwig Vanderwater, please visit her website at <https://www.amyludwigvanderwater.com/>

### **Discussion Questions**

6. What is your favorite poem? Why?
7. Which activity is your favorite and least favorite to do? Why?
8. Did you find out about any new activities that you have never tried that you would like to try? Which activities? Why?
9. How do you feel when you create something? Are you proud of your creations? How do you show them off?
10. What can you do with your hands?

### **Activities**

11. Pick a poem from the book and make your own creation in that type of craft. Have a craft fair and share your creation with your classmates.
12. Check with your local hardware store, they may offer a building outreach program for kids in your area. You can also see if a local contractor, builder or architect would be willing to visit your class.
13. See if you can have a local artist visit to talk about their craft, or see if you can visit their workshop.
14. Tour a local art museum, or try a digital tour from a museum on this list. Not all museum content is for all people. Please review the content from the list before showing it to your class.  
<http://mentalfloss.com/article/75809/12-world-class-museums-you-can-visit-online>
15. Create art with nature. Go on a nature walk and collect items for an art project. (Leaf critters, bird feeders, pressed flowers, etc)

### **More Resources**

- <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/05/with-my-hands-poems-about-making-things/>
- <http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/bringing-poetry-to-the-classroom-grades-K-5.html>



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- <http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/poetry>
  - <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/crafts-for-kids/>
  - <http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/>

### **Similar Books**

- *Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing* by Marilyn Singer
- *World Make Way: New Poems Inspired by Art* from The Metropolitan Museum of Art edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins
- *Vivid: Poems & Notes About Color* by Julie Paschkis
- *Things To Do* by Elaine Magliaro
- *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh

### **Related Non-fiction**

- *Art is Every Day: Activities for the Home, Park, Museum and City* by Eileen Prince
- *Arts and Crafts of the Ancient World Series* by Ting Morris
- *Knit, Hook and Spin: A Kid's Activity Guide to Fiber Arts and Crafts* by Laurie M Carlson
- *Cool Outdoor Arts and Crafts: Great Things To Do in the Great Outdoors* by Alex Kuskowski
- *I am Not a Cereal Box: The Recycling Project Book* by Dyanmo Limited