

**Children's Literature
Association
of
Utah**

**Beehive Poetry Book
Nominees
2018
Book Activities**



The Alligator's Smile: And Other Poems

By Jane Yolen

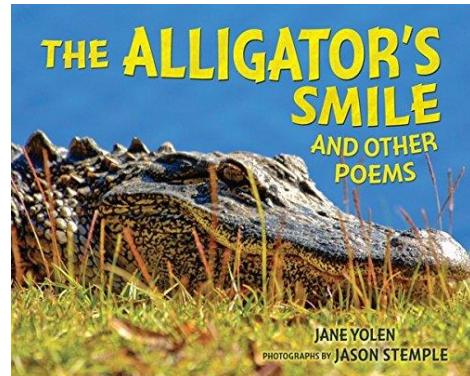
Millbrook Press

Publication date: 2016

ISBN 978-1467755757

Grade Level 1-5

Number of Pages: 32



Description:

Get up close and personal with alligators and learn how they hunt, keep warm, and care for their young.

General Review:

Gr 1–5—A fabulous merging of science and poetry, this latest addition from veteran author Yolen provides an up-close view of the American alligator. The poems vary in style, from haiku to limerick, while the photographs of real alligators in their habitats are enticing and chilling. Yolen knows how to create little moments of suspense; in the three-line poem "Seven Words About an Alligator," the first two lines build a slow, steady pace ("Silently floating,/Silently gloating"), making the reversal and the accompanying sense of danger in the third and final line ("Not a log") all the more spooky. Through these verses, readers will learn about alligator nests, teeth, diet, and hunting style, as well as how long these creatures live and how long they have existed (about 80 million years). Fact boxes on each spread expand on the subject of the poem. The lack of an explanation or guide to the poetic style used does not detract from the volume. VERDICT Beware: young readers with an interest in reptiles, science, or poetry are certain to snatch up this work. Recommended for most collections.—. – School Library Journal

Themes:

Poetry; Alligators; Nonfiction; Animals

Author/Illustrator Information:

Jane Yolen is the author of over 300 books. Called the Hans Christian Andersen of America Yolen has written in all formats and genres. Her books include Owl Moon, The Devil's Arithmetic, and How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?. The winner of major awards including the Caldecott Medal, the Nebula Award, and the Kerlan Award, Yolen lives in both Massachusetts and St. Andrews, Scotland.

<http://janeyolen.com/>

Photographer's website

<http://www.jasonstemple.com/books.htm>

Discussion Questions:

1. Which poem is your favorite? Why do you like that poem?
2. What was something you learned about alligators that you did not know?
3. Was there anything that made you want to learn more about alligators?

Activities:

1. Have students write their own poems about their favorite animals.
2. Using paper lunch sacks and green paper have children make their own alligator puppets.
3. Change the animal in a favorite verse to alligators (i.e. 5 little monkeys jumping on the bed becomes 5 little alligators jumping on the bed)
4. Make an obstacle course and have children move though it on hands, knees, belly, just like an alligator.
5. Have children do research on alligators and crocodiles and make presentations or graphic organizers about the differences.
6. Simple alligator craft <http://www.sheknows.com/parenting/articles/1020821/animal-crafts-for-kids-from-a-to-z>

**More Resources:**

American Alligator by National Geographic Kids:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/american-alligator/#american-alligator-jaws.jpg>

American Alligator by Smithsonian's National Zoo:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/american-alligator>

American Alligator San Diego Zoo Kids: <http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/reptiles/american-alligator>

Alligator Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/reptiles-and-amphibians/reptiles/alligator/>

Similar Books:

Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator by Mo Willems

Oliver and his Alligator by Paul Schmid

Alligators All Around by Maurice Sendak

Alligator Bayou by Donna Jo Napoli

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile by Bernard Waber

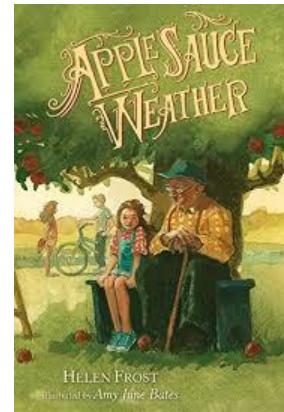
Alligator Baby by Robert Munsch

National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!

By J. Patrick Lewis

Applesauce Weather by Helen Frost

Illustrator: Amy June Bates
Candlewick Press
Publication date 2016
ISBN 978-0763675769
Grade Level 3-6
Number of Pages: 112



Description:

Preparing for her family's annual tradition of picking apples, making applesauce, and listening to her Uncle Arthur tell his tall tales, young Faith comforts her uncle, who has lost his zest for stories in the aftermath of losing his wife.

General Review:

Throughout the tale, Bates' evocative oil-based pencil drawings build on the intimacy of Frost's narrative, deftly adding motion, whether it be in Faith's wind-swept hair or Peter hanging upside down from a tree. Frost's compact first-person poems shift in perspective from character to character, revealing the inner thoughts and feelings of each while simultaneously propelling the narrative and allowing for concise but realistic character development. Light yet poignant, this multigenerational family tale shows age proves no barrier when it comes to offering solace.

Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

Themes:

Family; loss; grief; tradition; autumn; storytelling

Author/Illustrator Information:

Helen Frost

While Helen Frost writes in different genres and for all ages, she is best known for her novels-in-verse for children and young adults. A single book often includes perspectives of multiple characters. Actions carry the short "chapters," but the endings always tie together the threads of the stories. While she has written many straightforward nonfiction books for younger readers, she has recently produced nonfiction picture books with lyrical language and poetic elements. Start with *Keesha's House* (Teens); *Monarch and Milkweed* (Younger Kids).

<http://www.helenfrost.net/>

Amy June Bates

When Amy was a kid she loved to draw and read. She spent the time that she wasn't reading and drawing trying to keep her six brothers and sisters from drawing on her pictures and losing her place in whatever book she was reading. She loved the mountains quite a bit. She grew up and learned to draw a lot better. She currently lives in Pennsylvania with her three children and husband. She reads and she draws quite a bit. www.amyjunebates.com

Discussion Questions:

1. Which sibling, Peter or Faith, do you connect with the most? What do you have in common with that character and how are you different?
2. What traditions does your family have to go along with the seasons?
3. Which drawing in the book is your favorite? Why do you like it? What do you think about the book's illustrations?
4. Do you think Uncle Arthur will ever tell the kids what really happened to his finger? Why or why not? Can you make up a story that tells how he lost it?
5. Uncle Arthur gives Faith the gift of telling stories. What do you think of that gift? How will she use it throughout her life?

Activities:

Make homemade applesauce: <http://www.todaysparent.com/recipes/how-to-make-applesauce/>

Find a pick-your-own orchard and pick some apples (or berries, pears, peaches, or pumpkins, depending on the season): <http://www.pickyourown.org/UT.htm>

Learn how to draw pencil portraits. Amy June Bates's pencil illustrations in *Applesauce Weather* add meaning and interest to the story. Go to your local library and find a book about drawing with pencil and learn how to draw your own. This will take some practice but have fun with it!

Interview your grandparents or other members of your family. Ask them to tell you stories about how they met each other, funny experiences, and their hardest and best moments. Write down what they tell you, or use a recording device to make an audio file of the interview.

More Resources:

Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. People who excel at telling stories sometimes become professional storytellers. At the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival, you can hear storytellers of all sorts weave stories of all kinds. <https://timpfest.org/>

Poems Kids Like: a collection of poems for kids to read that they'll love! Funny, sad, unusual, and age-appropriate poems are linked here. <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/poems-kids>

Family history activities for kids. This link has some fun family history ideas for learning about your family tree. [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family History Activities for Children: 3-11](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Activities_for_Children:_3-11)

Similar Books:

The Sittin' Up, Sheila P. Moses

Bird by Zetta Elliott

Catching a Storyfish by Janice N. Harrington

All the Way Home by Patricia Reilly Goff

One Red Apple by Harriet Ziefert

National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems With Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!

Edited by: J. Patrick Lewis

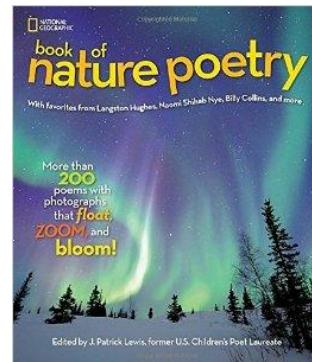
National Geographic

Publication date 2015

ISBN 978-1-42632-095-8

Grade Level 3-6

Number of Pages:192



Description:

A wonderful collection of nature poems from various poets (curated by former U.S. Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis) set alongside stunning photographs of nature in all her splendor.

General Review:

Grades 3-6. Nature in all of its colorful, vivid, stunning glory is presented here in full-page, beautifully reproduced color photographs (National Geographic's specialty, naturally) and spot-on accompanying poems. Former U.S. Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis has compiled a selection of poems from poets both well-known and obscure. Each poem is paired with captivating photos, which, on every page, show an element of nature that fits along with the various themed sections. "In the Sky," for instance, features images of the moon, sunsets, weather, and stars so big they look like snowflakes, all with perfectly chosen poems overlaid on the pictures. The photographs offer a wide range of perspectives, from the minute detail of an unfurling fern to the bird's-eye-view of a vast hurricane cloud, and they are impressive enough that some readers might be tempted to skip the poems. But the wide range of verses are equally impressive, with a broad selection of styles, forms, and poets. This is a full package; a duet of wonder. A beautifully produced collection that will easily snag the attention of young readers.

-Booklist

Themes:

Nature, animals, weather, sky, sea, land, plants and seasons.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Former Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis grew up in Gary, Indiana and earned a BA at Saint Joseph's College, an MA at Indiana University, and a PhD in economics at the Ohio State University. Lewis taught in the department of Business, Accounting and Economics at Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, until 1998 when he became a full-time writer.

Lewis is the author of more than fifty books of poetry for children, which find their shape in both free and formal verse and engage a wide range of subjects from history to mathematics, Russian folklore to the animal kingdom.

His children's poetry has been widely anthologized, and his contributions to children's literature have been recognized with the 2011 Poetry Award from the National Council of Teachers of English and the

Ohioana Awards' 2004 Alice Louise Wood Memorial Prize.

Lewis served as the nation's third Children's Poet Laureate from 2011 to 2013. He lives in Westerville, Ohio.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/j-patrick-lewis>

Discussion Questions:

1. Which poem is your favorite and why? Is your choice based more on the picture or the poem or both?
2. Discuss the job of the U.S. Children's Poet Laureate?

Activities:

1. Read the students the poem Two Falling Flakes from the book on page 29. Discuss the qualities of concrete poetry and have the students write a concrete poem about an item or animal in nature.
2. Talk to the students about how nature can be experienced using all of our five senses. Have the students bring in a small nature item and describe it using their five senses.
3. Make a weather recipe as a class. Read the students the poem How to Bake a Flower from the book on page 110. Talk about the unique format for this poem (recipe). Have the class write their own recipe to describe a specific kind of weather (rain/sun/snow/fog).
4. Create a Post-it Note poem similar to the one on page 178 (Post-it Notes From the World). Select a picture of an item found in nature, provide each student a Post-it Note and ask them to write down three descriptive words to describe that item in nature. Have each student post his/her note around the picture.

More Resources:

Pictures and information about animals

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals>

Information about various poets, poet laureates and poetry book recommendations

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org>

Similar Books:

Fiction Titles:

Maisy's Wonderful Weather Book by Lucy Cousins

I'll Follow the Moon by Stephanie Lisa Tara

The Oak Inside the Acorn by Max Lucado

Nonfiction Titles:

Animal Ark: Celebration of Wild World in Poetry and Pictures by Kwame Alexander

Wet Cement by Bob Raczka

A Dazzling Display of Dogs by Betsy Franco

National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry by J. Patrick Lewis

Slickety Quick: Poems About Sharks by Skila Brown

Illustrator: Bob Kolar

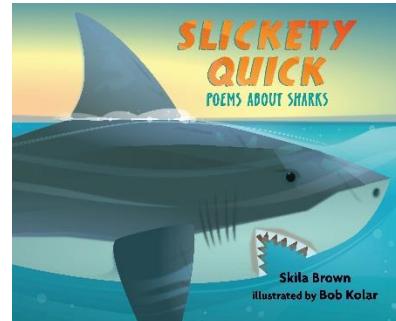
Publisher: Candlewick

Publication date: 2016

ISBN 978-0763665432

Grade Level: 1st – 4th Grade

Number of Pages: 32



Description:

From the enormous whale shark to the legendary great white to the enigmatic goblin shark to the small cookie-cutter shark, Slickety Quick is a delightful frenzy of shark mayhem. Mysterious species such as the camouflaged wobbegong and the elusive frilled shark share the waters with better-known blue and nurse sharks, each commemorated in a poem by Skila Brown and illustrated by Bob Kolar. Sneaky shark facts ripple through each spread to further inform the brave and curious young reader intrigued by the power--and danger--of these amazing creatures.

General Review:

Booklist: Grades 2-4. These concrete poems about a selection of sharks will tickle the fins of many an aspiring marine biologist. Sharks, always a high-interest topic, are successfully showcased in this heavily visual format. First up is the usual suspect: a double-page spread featuring a great white. On the left, the open-mouthed shark cuts through the water, the top of his fin poking above the waves. He is mimicked on the right by triangular text: "Okay. / We get / it. You're big / and bad and mean." Of the sharks that follow, some--tiger sharks, whale sharks, bull sharks--are familiar, but others are a rarer breed: frilled sharks, which live deep in the ocean; goblin sharks, which are pink and flat-snouted; and cookie-cutter sharks, which are named for the circular bite marks they leave on prey. The digital illustrations, glossy and brightly colored, are just cartoonish enough to dispel any fears young readers may have about the subject. The book ends with another favorite: a poem for two voices that features--what else?--a hammerhead. Reagan, Maggie. 32p. AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, c2016.

Themes:

Sharks Juvenile Literature, Sharks Poetry, American Children's Poetry

Author Information:

Skila Brown is the author of verse novels *Caminar* and *To Stay Alive*, as well as the picture book *Slickety Quick: Poems About Sharks*, all with Candlewick Press. She received an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She grew up in Kentucky and Tennessee and now lives in Indiana where she writes books for readers of all ages.

Wondering how to say her name? It's a long i sound. Like Sky-luh.

<http://skilabrown.com/>

Illustrator Information:

Bob Kolar lives in Missouri and has illustrated numerous books for young readers, including AlphaOops! The Day Z Went First and AlphaOops! H Is for Halloween, both by Alethea Kontis, and Nothing Like a Puffin by Sue Soltis.

<http://bobkolarbooks.com/>

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of shark do you like the best? What kind of shark would you want to be?
2. What are scientists who study sharks called? (Shark biologist) Would you be interested in going into a career where you study sharks?
3. Sharks are part of the ocean ecosystem. What can we do to help preserve their habitat?
4. Check out the Slickety Quick Educator's Guide for Discussion Questions for each poem in the book. <http://skilabrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Slickety-Quick-Educator-Guide.pdf>

Activities:

1. Compare a shark to another animal using a Venn Diagram.
2. Practice memorization skills, have the students memorize a favorite shark poem.
3. Research a shark not mentioned in the book and write your own poem.
4. Make a shark sun catcher using shark silhouettes, blue and white tissue paper and contact paper. <http://buggyandbuddy.com/shark-crafts-for-preschoolers-shark-suncatcher/>
5. Share books about: sharks or concrete poetry.
6. Have some pictures of some of the sharks featured in the book, read a poem, and have them guess which shark it is.

More Resources:

Skila Brown's official book page. Make sure you check out her "Educator's Guide" and "Sharks!" page.

<http://skilabrown.com/books/slickety-quick/>

Easy Peasy and Fun has 25 shark crafts and activities on one page.

<http://www.easypeasyandfun.com/25-shark-crafts-and-activities/>

Sharks4kids has facts, activities, videos and teaching resources.

<http://sharks4kids.com/>

KidsZone has interesting worksheets about sharks.

<http://www.kidzone.ws/sharks/>

Similar Books:**Poetry Titles:**

A spectacular selection of Sea Critters by Betsy Franco

Neighbors by George Held

Ocean Soup by Stephen R. Swinburne

Hotel Deep by Kurt Cyrus

Non-Fiction Titles:

- Sharks: get up Close to Nature's Fiercest Predators by Ben Hubbard
- Sharks by Bonnie Bader
- Sharks: Predators of the Sea by Anna Claybourne
- Shark Rescue: All about Sharks and How to Save Them by Ruth Musgrave

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems by Bob Raczka

Roaring Brook Press

Publication date 2016

ISBN 978-1626722361

Grade Level 3-7

Number of Pages: 43

Description:

Words are used to create pictures of everyday objects.



General Review:

Gr 3–6—At the start of this collection, Raczka notes that he likes to think of poems as "word paintings," and he demonstrates this philosophy to marvelous effect. In each of his 21 concrete poems, he groups the words in a shape that complements or emphasizes the meaning or central concept. Raczka goes even further, playfully arranging the letters in the one-word titles of his poems as well. Even the table of contents is constructed to resemble a table. The result is a fun and clever collection that is sure to inspire young poets. While short, the poems are by turns amusing and thoughtful and make excellent use of figurative language devices. A selection about the Big Dipper includes a metaphor that describes the constellation as "a vessel of stars, my brim overflowing with night." Another offering depicts a thunderstorm as "a cloud tantrum." A few layouts may test some readers, such as one about a home run in which one whole line is printed backward, but most students will enjoy the challenge. VERDICT This winning assortment should find a place in most libraries. —School Library Journal

Themes:

Poetry; Shapes; Everyday Objects

Author/Illustrator Information:

Bob Raczka is a poet and author of many books for children, including Lemonade: and Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word, Guyku: A Year of Poem for Boys and Presidential Misadventures: Poems that Poke Fun at the Man in Charge. His poems are witty, playful and inquisitive offering thoughts and insights into a wide range of topics. Accessible to children and adults alike his books will be favorites of many readers. <http://www.bobraczka.com/>

Discussion Questions:

1. Which poem is your favorite? Why do you like that poem?
2. How does the poet show what the poem is about?
3. How did the poet use shape, line, spacing, or font to make the shape of this poem? Could the poet have done something differently? Why?

Activities:

1. Have students write their own concrete poems. Pick everyday objects to write about.

2. Print out a line drawing of an object. Write words that represent the object around it on the lines creating a concrete poem.
3. Write a poem in another form haiku, acrostic, limerick or a list poem about an everyday object then imbed the poem in a picture of that object.
4. Play charades or Pictionary using the topics of concrete poems. Act out and guess the topic then read the poem.
5. Share other poems written about the same topics of the concrete poems.

More Resources:

Concrete poetry:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concrete_poetry

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems Classroom Bookshelf:

<http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2016/05/wet-cement-a-mix-of-concrete-poems/>

Discovering Poetic Form and Structure Using Concrete Poems

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/discovering-poetic-form-structure-211.html?tab=4>

Write Theme Poems:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/activities-projects/write-theme-poems-30173.html?main-tab=2>

Similar Books:

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits

Connor and Clara Build a Concrete Poem by Megan Atwood, illustrated by Reginald Butler

A Curious Collection of Cats: Concrete Poems by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Michael Wertz

A Dazzling Display of Dogs: Concrete Poems by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Michael Wertz

Ode to a Commode: Concrete Poems by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by Andy Rowland

A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems by Paul B. Janeczko, illustrated by Chris Raschka

Read, Recite, and Write: Concrete Poems by JoAnn Early Macken

A Spectacular Selection of Sea Creatures: Concrete Poems by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Michael Wertz

Technically, It's Not My Fault: Concrete Poems by John Grandits