

Poetry Books

2002-2023

The Children's Literature Association of Utah does not necessarily recommend that all children read all books. These nominees offer a balance in reading level and interest level for grades K through 9. We encourage parents to read and discuss these books with their children.

2023 Poetry Nominees

- *Delicious! Poems Celebrating Street Food Around the World* by Julie Larios, illustrated by Julie Paschkis
- *Hard-Boiled Bugs for Breakfast* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Ruth Chan
- *No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History* edited by Lindsay H. Hetcalf, & Keila V. Dawson, illustrated by Jeanette Bradley
- *Star Fish* by Lisa Fipps
- *Write! Write! Write!* by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, illustrated by Ryan O'Rourke

2022 Poetry Nominees

- *Common Critters: The Wildlife in Your Neighborhood* by Pat Brisson, illustrated by Dan Tavis
- *The Day the Universe Exploded in My Head: Poems to Take You into Space and Back Again* by Allen Wolf, illustrated by Anna Raff
- *Dictionary for a Better World: Poems, Quotes, and Anecdotes from A to Z* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters, and Mehrdokht Amini
- *In the Woods* by David Elliott and Rob Dunlavey
- *On the Horizon* by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Kenard Pak

2021 Poetry Nominees

- *The Bell Rang* by James Ransome
- *Birdie* by Eileen Spinelli
- *Lion of the Sky Haiku for All Seasons* by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Mercè López
- *Predator and Prey: A Conversation in Verse* by Susannah Buhrman-Deever, illustrated by Bert Kitchen
- *Sometimes You Fly* by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Jennifer Black Reinhardt

2020 Poetry Nominees

- *Can I touch your hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship* by Charles Waters & Irene Latham
- *Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez
- *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess* by Shari Green
- *Song of the Wild: A First Book of Animals* by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Petr Horáček
- *This Is the Nest that Robin Built* by Denise Fleming

2019 Poetry Nominees

- *Best in Snow* by April Pulley Sayre
- *Catching a Storyfish* by Janice N. Harrington
- *My Daddy Rules the World: Poems about Dads* by Hope Anita Smith
- *One Minute till Bedtime: 60 Second Poems to Send You Off to Sleep* by Kenn Nesbitt, illustrated by Christoph Niemann
- *Rolling Thunder* by Kate Messner, illustrated by Greg Ruth

2018 Poetry Nominees

- *The Alligator's Smile: And Other Poems* by Jane Yolen, photographs by Jason Stemple
- *Applesauce Weather* by Helen Frost, illustrated by Amy June Bates
- *National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More Than 200 Poems That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!* edited by J. Patrick Lewis
- *Slickety Quick: Poems About Sharks* by Skila Brown, illustrated by Bob Kolar
- *Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems* by Bob Raczka

2017 Poetry Nominees

- *No Nominees for 2017*

2016 Poetry Nominees

- *Dust of Eden* by Mariko Nagai
- *Hi, Koo! : A Year of Seasons* by Jon J. Muth
- *Ode to a Commode: Concrete Poems* by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by Andy Rowland
- *The Pet Project: Cute and Cuddly Vicious Verses* by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Zachariah OHora
- *Poem Depot: Aisles of Smiles* by Douglas Florian
- *Prince Puggly of Spud and the Kingdom of Spiff* by Robert Paul Weston, illustrated by Víctor Rivas Villa
- *Under the Freedom Tree* by Susan VanHecke, illustrated by London Ladd

- *Your Skeleton Is Showing: Rhymes of Blunder From Six Feet Under* by Kurt Cyrus, illustrated by Crab Scrambly

2015 Poetry Nominees

- *Cat Talk* by Patricia MacLachlan & Emily MacLachlan Charest, illustrated by Barry Moser
- *Digger, Dozer, Dumper* by Hope Vestergaard, illustrated by David Slonim
- *Gone Fishing: A Novel In Verse* by Tamera Will Wissinger, illustrated by Matthew Cordell
- *Grumbles from the Forest: Fairy-tale Voices with a Twist* by Jane Yolen and Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Matt Mahurin
- *National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs that Squeak, Soar, and Roar!* edited by J. Patrick Lewis
- *Poems to Learn by Heart* selected by Caroline Kennedy, paintings by Jon J. Muth
- *Sisters of Glass* by Stephanie Hemphill
- *When Mermaids Sleep* by Ann Bonwill, illustrated by Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher

2014 Poetry Nominees

- *BookSpeak! Poems About Books* by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Josée Bisaillon
- *Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs* by J. Patrick Lewis & Jane Yolen, illustrated by Jeffrey Stewart Timmins
- *Out of This World* by Amy Sklansky, illustrated by Stacey Schuett
- *Poems I Wrote When No One Was Looking* by Alan Katz, drawings by Edward Koren
- *The President's Stuck in the Bathtub* by Susan Katz, illustrated by Robert Neubecker
- *Shiver Me Timbers* by Douglas Florian, illustrated by Robert Neubecker
- *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Beth Krommes
- *Twosomes* by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Lee Wildish

2013 Poetry Nominees

- *Around the World on Eighty Legs* by Amy Gibson, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
- *Better Together* by Sheryl Shapiro & Simon Shapiro, illustrated by Dušan Petričić
- *Dear Hot Dog* by Mordicai Gerstein
- *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
- *GUYKU: A Year of Haiku for Boys* by Bob Raczka, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
- *I Am the Book* by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Yayo
- *Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes* by Salley Mavor
- *Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems* compiled by Jane Yolen & Andrew Fusek Peters, illustrated by G. Brian Karas
- *Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* by Lee Wardlaw, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin

- *The Year of Goodbyes: A True Story of Friendship, Family and Farewells* by Debbie Levy

2012 Poetry Nominees

- *A Curious Collection of Cats* by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Michael Wertz
- *Curious Creatures: Animal Poems* by Barry Louis Polisar, illustrated by David Clark
- *The Dancing Pancake* by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff
- *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night* by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Rick Allen
- *Dizzy in Your Eyes: Poems About Love* by Pat Mora
- *In the Wild* by David Elliott, illustrated by Holly Meade
- *Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse* by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Josée Masse
- *Name That Dog* by Peggy Archer, illustrated by Stephanie Buscema
- *Scarum Fair* by Jessica Swaim, illustrated by Carol Ashley
- *Spot the Plot: A Riddle Book of Book Riddles* by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

2011 Poetry Nominees

- *Be Glad Your Nose is on Your Face and Other Poems: Some of the Best of Jack Prelutsky* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Brandon Dorman
- *The Bill Martin Jr. Big Book of Poetry* edited by Bill Martin Jr. & Michael Sampson
- *Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes* by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Petra Mathers
- *Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings* by Douglas Florian
- *Far From You* by Lisa Schroeder
- *A Fuzzy-Fast Blur: Poems about Pets* by Laura Purdie Salas
- *Partly Cloudy: Poems of Love and Longing* by Gary Soto
- *Truckery Rhymes* by Jon Scieska, illustrated by David Shannon, Loren Long, & David Gordon
- *The Underwear Salesman: and Other Jobs for Better or Verse* by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Serge Bloch
- *A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: a Forest of Poems* by Deborah Ruddell, illustrated by Joan Rankin

2010 Poetry Nominees

- *42 Miles* by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, illustrated by Elaine Clayton
- *Crocs!* by David T. Greenberg, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger
- *Frankenstein Takes the Cake* by Adam Rex
- *Imaginary Menagerie: a Book of Curious Creatures* by Julie Larios, illustrated by Julie Paschkis

- *M is for Mischief: An A to Z of Naughty Children* by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
- *Oh, Theodore!: Guinea Pig Poems* by Susan Katz, illustrated by Stacey Schuett
- *Oops!* by Alan Katz, illustrated Edward Koren
- *Pizza, Pigs and Poetry: How to Write a Poem* by Jack Prelutsky
- *A River of Words: the Story of William Carlos Williams* by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
- *This Is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness* by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski

2009 Poetry Nominees

- *Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems* by John Grandits
- *Bugs: Poems about Creeping Things* by David L. Harrison, illustrated by Rob Shepperson
- *Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings* by Douglas Florian
- *Cowlick!* by Christin Ditchfield, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw
- *Dogku* by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Tim Bowers
- *Good Sports: Rhymes about Running, Jumping, Throwing and More* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Chris Raschka
- *Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry* by Jane Yolen & Andrew Fusek Peters, illustrated by Polly Dunbar
- *Mother Goose: Numbers on the Loose* by Leo & Diane Dillon
- *The Snack Smasher: And Other Reasons Why It's Not My Fault* by Andrea Perry, illustrated by Alan Snow
- *Where I Live* by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Matt Phelan

2008 Poetry Nominees

- *The Barefoot Book of Classic Poems* compiled and illustrated by Jackie Morris
- *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant: and Other Poems* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Carin Berger
- *Busy in the Garden* by George Shannon, illustrated by Sam Williams
- *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich* by Adam Rex
- *Once I Ate a Pie* by Patricia MacLachlan, Emily MacLachlan Charest, illustrated by Katy Schneider
- *She's All That: Poems About Girls* by Belinda Hollyer
- *There is a Flower on the Tip of my Nose Smelling Me* by Alice Walker, illustrated by Stefano Vitale
- *Tour America: a Journey Through Poems and Art* by Diane Siebert, illustrated by Stephen T. Johnson
- *Yellow Elephant: a Bright Bestiary* by Julie Larios, illustrated by Julie Paschkis

2007 Poetry Nominees

- *A Maze Me: Poems for Girls* by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Terre Maher
- *Days to Celebrate: A Full Year of Poetry, People, Holidays, History, Fascinating Facts and More* by Lee Bennett Hopkins
- *A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children* selected by Caroline Kennedy, paintings by Jon J. Muth
- *Heroes and She-Roes: Poems of Amazing and Everyday Heroes* by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Jim Cooke
- *Hotel Deep: Light Verse from Dark Water* by Kurt Cyrus
- *A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms* by Paul B. Janeczko, illustrated by Chris Raschka
- *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, illustrated by Christopher Bing
- *Science Verse* by John Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith
- *Song of the Water Boatman and Other Poems* by Joyce Kilmer, illustrated by Beckie Prange
- *Zoo's Who Poems and Paintings* by Douglas Florian

2006 Poetry Nominees

- *Because I Could Not Stop My Bike and Other Poems* by Karen Jo Shapiro, illustrated by Matt Faulkner
- *BrainJuice: Science Fresh Squeezed!* by Carol Diggory Shields, illustrated by Richard Thompson
- *The Essential Worldwide Monster Guide* by Linda Ashman, illustrated by David Small
- *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll, illustrated by Joel Stewart
- *My School's a Zoo!* by Stu Smith, illustrated by David Catrow
- *Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry* by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by Neal Layton
- *Rolling in the Aisles: a Collection of Laugh-out-loud Poems* by Bruce Lansky, illustrated by Stephen Carpenter
- *She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain* by Philemon Sturges
- *Squeal and Squawk: Barnyard Talk* by Susan Pearson, illustrated by David Slonim
- *A Sock is a Pocket for Your Toes: a Pocket Book* by Elizabeth Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser
- *Tai Chi Morning: Snapshots of China* by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Ed Young
- *Wild Wings: Poems for Young People* by Jane Yolen, photography by Jason Stemple

2005 Poetry Nominees

- *Dear Mother, Dear Daughter: Poems for Young People* by Jane Yolen and Heidi E. Y. Stemple, illustrated by Gil Ashby
- *Exploding Gravy: Poems to Make You Laugh* by X.J. Kennedy, illustrated by Joy Allen

- *Giant Children* by Brod Bagert, illustrated by Tedd Arnold
- *In the Spin of Things: Poetry of Motion* by Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Karen Dugan
- *Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Plum* by Tony Mitton
- *Spider and the Fly* by Mary Howitt, illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi
- *This is the House That Jack Built* by Simms Taback
- *Whisper and Shout: Poems to Memorize* by Patrice Vecchione

2004 Poetry Nominees

- *100 Best Poems of All Time* by Leslie Pockell
- *Cool Melons-Turn to Frogs!: The Life and Poems of Issa* by Matthew Gollub, illustrated by Kazuko G. Stone
- *Fly with Poetry: an ABC of Poetry* by Avis Harley
- *Monster Goose* by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Jack E. Davis
- *The Moon & Riddles Diner and the Sunnyside Cafe* by Nancy Willard, illustrated by Chris Butler
- *Silver Seeds* by Paul Paolilli & Dan Brewer, paintings by Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher
- *Wool Gathering: a Sheep Family Reunion* by Lisa Wheeler, paintings by Frank Ansley

2003 Poetry Nominees

- *It's Raining Pigs and Noodles* by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by James Stevenson
- *The Paper Doorway: Funny Verse and Nothing Worse* by Dean Koontz
- *A Poke in the I: a Collection of Concrete Poems* edited by Paul B. Janeczko, illustrated by Chris Raschka
- *Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs* by Alan Katz, illustrated by David Catrow

2002 Poetry Nominees

- *A Lucky Thing* by Alice Schertle
- *The Disappearing Alphabet* by Richard Wilbur, illustrated by David Diaz
- *Insectlopedia: Poems and Paintings* by Douglas Florian
- *Stone Bench in an Empty Park* by Paul Janeczko, illustrated by Henri Silberman
- *What Have You Lost?* by Naomi Shihab Nye