**Grades K-2**


**Summary:** These poems are about creatures who lived in various prehistoric eras. The first poem is about the trilobite who lived in the Cambrian Period of the Paleozoic Era, and the last is about the mammoth who lived in the Quaternary period of the Cenozoic Era.

**Curricular use:** This book of poetry would nicely enhance a unit on dinosaurs or general prehistoric eras.

**Audience:** This book would interest readers of all ages who are interested in prehistoric life.


**Summary:** The focus of the poems in this collection is on animals who build homes, what materials they use for their homes, and how and where they build. Collage illustrations add to the appeal of each poem. Backmatter includes additional information about each animal.

**Curricular use:** This would work well with a unit focusing on backyard wildlife or living things. (Kdg’s *Animals 2 by 2*, 1st grade’s *Plants & Animals*, 2nd grade’s *Insects & Animals*, & maybe 4th grade’s *Environments* science units.)

**Audience:** Though this book would appeal to kindergarten through 4th graders with an interest in animals.


**Summary:** In this autobiographical poem, Juan Felipe Herrera tells about being a child of migrant farm workers, and also asked readers to imagine what the future might hold for them.

**Curricular use:** This would be a nice addition to a lesson/assignment about hopes & dreams for the future.

**Audience:** Laura Castillo’s illustrations make this book most appealing to primary students, but the poem itself would appeal to any children who are living with hardships, or know someone who is.


**Summary:** This is a collection of poems about plants & animals who live in urban settings; from moss to the great horned owl. Bright collage illustrations accompany each poem. Backmatter provides more information about each plant/animal included.

**Curricular use:** This would work well with a unit focusing on backyard wildlife or living things. (Kdg’s *Animals 2 by 2*, 1st grade’s *Plants & Animals*, & 2nd grade’s *Insects & Animals* science units)

**Audience:** Though this book is targeted for primary grades, it could easily appeal to 3rd & 4th as well.
Grades 3-4


**Summary:** The poems in this collection are about the trials & tribulations of friendship...the good, the bad, and the ugly. The colored pencil & crayon illustrations are whimsical & capture the mood of each poem.

**Curricular use:** These poems would be great reads at the beginning of the school year when old friendships are rekindled, and new friendships are being formed. They could come in handy throughout the school year when various friendship issues arise.

**Audience:** This book is really for anyone who has had a friend, is a friend, or wants a friend.


**Summary:** Beautiful poems about all things equine, with lovely watercolor illustrations.

**Curricular use:** This book is full of great examples of haiku for a poetry unit.

**Audience:** Any reader with an interest in horses.


**Summary:** The haiku in this book are about everyday happenings. They are full of the beauty of nature and of hope. Nina Crews’ photo collage illustrations add to the power of the poems. At the end, Crews has included information about haiku, and a biography of Richard Wright.

**Curricular use:** This book is full of great examples of haiku for a poetry unit.

**Audience:** 3rd grade +

Grades 5-6


**Summary:** These poems are written as dialogue from the perspective of two students...one white & one black...who have to work together on a writing project. Their poems compare & contrast their experiences of race.

**Curricular use:** This book would be a good springboard for a discussion/unit on race.

**Audience:** This book would appeal to readers 4th grade and older, and from all backgrounds.


**Summary:** The thirteen poems in this collection are tanka poems; similar to haiku, but with two extra lines. The everyday lives of 13 black boys are depicted in the poems. Each poem is illustrated by a different artist, some well-known, and others just starting out.

**Curricular use:** This book would be a nice addition to a poetry unit.

**Audience:** 5th grade and older
Books About Poets


Summary: This is the story of 11-year old Langston, whose mother dies in the year 1946. Soon after, he and his father move from Alabama to Chicago. While there is not much to like about the noisy northern city, the main character enjoys spending time at the public library after school where everyone is welcome. This is where Langston can hide from the boys who torment him, and where he discovers another Langston who speaks to and inspires him.


Summary: This is the story of George Moss Horton, a slave who educated himself by listening to the lessons taught to white children, and become the first African-American man to be published.