

North Allegheny Elementary Libraries

Summer Reading Suggestions

Poetry

Poetry is a wonderful way to introduce children to the fun they can have with language. Poetry is a lively form of literature – almost all children enjoy the rhymes and word play and creativity that are introduced in poetry.

The British Museum Origami and Haiku: Inspired by Japanese Artwork

This stunning book features three beautiful Japanese art forms in one. For each animal or object, children will be able to read the haiku, enjoy a corresponding work from the British Museum collection, and then make the origami figure!

Florian, Douglas Poem Runs: Baseball Poems and Paintings

With exaggerated and colorful drawings, this collection of 15 baseball poems is sure to hit a homerun with any baseball enthusiast.

Fogliano, Julie When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons

Experience the changing of seasons through lyrical language and captivating illustrations.

Fleischman, Paul Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices (Newbery Medal book)

Written in a form to be read by two people (reading different parts or sometimes reading simultaneously), the fascinating world of insects comes alive in all its beauty.

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

This clever poetry book delves into different experiences of race in a relatable way, exploring such topics as hair, hobbies, and family dinners. This remarkable collaboration invites readers of all ages to join the dialogue by putting their own words to their experiences.

Lewis, J. Patrick Spot the Plot: A Riddle Book of Book Riddles

These thirteen witty, wacky poems pose book riddles that challenge readers to Name That Book. Kids will delight in solving the riddles and recognizing their favorite stories of past.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of the Snowy Day

The iconic picture book A Snowy Day has long been revered as an outstanding contribution to the world of children's literature. In A Poem for Peter, Pinkney shares the story of Ezra Jack Keats, the creator of this beloved book and how his determination to become an artist despite the odds ultimately inspired generations that followed him.

Rex, Adam *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*

This deliciously funny poetry book contains poems about the bad habits, anxieties, and other fears and foibles of monsters. They have feelings too!

Silverstein, Shel *Runny Babbit Returns*

In true Shel Silverstein style, *Runny Babbit Returns* is a collection of 41 archived poems and drawings featuring Runny and his forest friends. (Try others by this author)

Singer, Marilyn *Echo Echo: Reverse Poems About Greek Myths*

Do you think you know the story of Pandora's box? King Midas and his golden touch? Take another look in this book, a collection of reverse poems that will shed new light on classic myths. Each poem recounts a classic myth, but only when read one way. Read the poem in reverse from a different point of view and gain a new perspective. (Try others by this author)

Singer, Marilyn *Rutherford B., Who Was He?: Poems About Our Presidents*

History comes alive in this rhyming book of poetry about the US Presidents. With engaging illustrations and biographical information about each president, audiences will be entertained and learn something along the way.

Wardlaw, Lee *Won Ton and Chopstick: A Cat and Dog Tale Told in Haiku*

Won Ton the cat is no longer master of the house upon the arrival of a new puppy. Will his people forget about him? Told entirely in haiku, readers will excite over the adorable feline antics and surely empathize with Cat as he struggles to accept this newcomer.

Weatherford, Carole *Freedom in Congo Square*

Winner of a Caldecott Honor, Coretta Scott King Honor, Charlotte Zolotow Award and a New York Times Best Illustrated Book, *Freedom in Congo Square* is a poetic nonfiction story that sheds light on a slice of little-known African American history. For Louisiana slaves in the 19th century, part of Sunday was celebrated as a time to freely gather, sing and dance in Congo Square in New Orleans.

Novels in Verse

Novels in verse, or verse novels, are simply books written in the form of poetry. The rhythm of verse novels becomes hypnotic making this type of book a very quick read.

Alexander, Kwame *The Crossover* (2014 Newbery Medal winner!)

This is the story of Josh and Jordan, twin basketball stars on their junior high team. Their father was a famous college basketball star who encourages them on and off the court. The boys start to change priorities as their father's health begins to fail. What is more important, basketball or life? Try also *Booked* and *Rebound*.

Grimes, Nikki Garvey's Choice

Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to play, Garvey comforts himself with food and endures bullying before joining the school chorus, where he learns how to accept himself and bond with his father.

Woodson, Jacqueline Brown Girl Dreaming (Newbery Honor Book)

This Newbery Honor book reflects on the childhood of author Jacqueline Woodson and captures the feelings, fears and hopes of a young African American girl growing up during the Civil Rights movement. This touching collection of poetry will inspire readers as they learn about the world's struggles, as well as Woodson's personal struggles, and how she persevered through it all.

Other Novels in Verse to try:

Out of Wonder by Kwame Alexander

Love that Dog & Hate that Cat by Sharon Creech

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai (2012 Newbery Honor Book)

They Call Me Güero: a Border Kid's Poems by David Bowles (2019 Pura Belpre Author Honor)

Julie Sterber's Eleanor series - Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie, Like Bug Juice on a Burger, Like Carrot Juice on a Cupcake

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson (2004 Coretta Scott King Award)

Out of the Dust (1998 Newbery Winner) & Witness by Karen Hesse

updated 2020