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Imagine

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read by providing compelling visuals that represent each poem. The people depicted are diverse in age, race, and gender, and young readers will enjoy imagining themselves swimming in a pod of dolphins or singing a sea shanty. The extra-large foldout of a humpback whale, with instructions on how to sing a humpback's song, will entice kids and adults to try their hand at the calls.

VERDICT This nicely illustrated and enjoyable poetry collection is recommended for most libraries, especially where aquatic life is popular.—*Ellen Conlin, Naperville Public Library, IL*

★ **HERRERA, Juan Felipe. *Imagine*.** illus. by Lauren Castillo. 32p. Candlewick. Oct. 2018. Tr \$16.99. ISBN 9780763690526.

K-Gr 4—A young child of migrant farmers spends his time picking flowers, playing with tadpoles, sleeping under the stars, helping with chores, and learning to say goodbye each time his family leaves their home for someplace new. The boy grows, eventually walking to a new school alone, knowing he cannot yet read or write English. He practices spelling in English by using what he knows in Spanish, and collects pens as well as words to write magnificent stories. He sings in front of his classmates, and learns guitar so that he can turn his poetry into songs. (If I picked up/my honey-colored guitar/and called out my poem/ every day/until it turned into a song,/imagine.) Written by the master wordsmith himself, this work details Herrera's life as a young boy spending time outside and then as an adolescent learning to craft poetry, before ultimately receiving the honor of U.S. Poet Laureate as an adult. His words are accompanied by pen-and-foam monochrome illustrations that sweep across the page to create a soft, dreamy feeling, further encouraging readers to heed the author's recurring refrain: imagine. Readers will finish the story envisioning all the possibilities that may await them. **VERDICT** A beautifully illustrated poem that will be cherished by children. A first purchase.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University, SC*

HOLMER, Anders. *Rain*. illus. by Anders Holmer. 32p. Eerdmans. Oct. 2018. Tr \$17. ISBN 9780802855077.

K-Gr 3—Written entirely in haiku, this slim title depicts rainy days around the world. The verse transports readers from a person with a broken-down car in the middle of a storm to a much-needed rainfall after a forest fire. Each spread in the book shows how poetry and nature can marry to capture a mood in time. The work ends with a haiku about a moment after rain, a scene filled with falling pink tree petals and friendship. The delicate illustrations, done in greys and muted blues and browns, are atmospheric.

The animals and people are given as much detail and care in the artwork as the tiny drops of water. This would make for an understated introduction to haiku; have students create their own weather-inspired poems. **VERDICT** A quiet, somewhat melancholy addition to poetry collections.—*Molly Dettmann, Norman North High School, OK*

HOPKINS, Lee Bennett. *A Bunch of Punctuation*. illus. by Serge Bloch. 32p. Boyd Mills/ Wordsong. Aug. 2018. Tr \$17.95. ISBN 9781590789940.

Gr 2-5—In this slight but lively volume, Hopkins showcases poems about punctuation. From commas to periods and every dash in between, kids' favorite marks are sure to find the spotlight at least once. "A Punctuation Tale" begins the adventure with a grammar introduction, leading into a solo poem for each mark, and capped with a punctuation-inspired poetry challenge. The poems do not adhere to any one particular structure, instead showcasing a variety of styles that seem best suited to their corresponding subject. Bloch's illustrations combine airy line drawings atop flat washes of color with the bold the punctuation marks. Most often the illustrations aid in illuminating meaning, though the duo with quotation-mark eyes may be a trifle unsettling or distracting. Perhaps not every poem works as well as it could, but as a whole this collection has great potential as a teaching tool. **VERDICT** Educators and libraries looking to provide grammar resources a bit lighter than the average textbook will find this a useful and enjoyable addition to their collection.—*Taylor Worley, Springfield Public Library, OR*

★ **KAUFMAN, Caroline. *Light Filters In: Poems*.** illus. by Yelena Bryksenkova. 224p. HarperCollins/Harper. May 2018. Tr ISBN 9780062844682.

Gr 7 Up—Kaufman initially shared her poetry on Instagram as a means of catharsis. The poems here are raw and, as the poet acknowledges, sometimes repetitive as she seeks again and again to make sense of where her sunny childhood cut off and the cloud of mental illness descended. Yet the repetition by no means defines the verse, nor makes it less powerful, but rather underlines the resiliency required for her journey. The poems, paired with spare, yet evocative drawings by Bryksenkova, address self-harm, scarring early sexual encounters, internal conflict over the need to medicate, and many other realities of mental illness for teens. Kaufman's willingness to share and artfully articulate her vulnerability has already proved vitally important for the legions of followers she's garnered as an "Instapoet," and will now prove similarly validating and empowering for those teens who discover her work through print. This

collection is an auspicious debut and while the verse will speak truth to stressed teens, even a short dip into Kaufman's online presence shows evidence of an important voice well beyond the realm of this collection. **VERDICT** Undoubtedly, Kaufman's readers—new and old—will be clamoring for more. A top addition to YA poetry collections.—*Jill Heritage Maza, Montclair Kimberley Academy, NJ*

KINEW, Wab. *Go Show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes*. illus. by Joe Morse. 40p. Tundra. Sept. 2018. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780735262928.

Gr 1-3—With sweeping portrait-style illustrations, this picture book poem introduces a wide range of historical and contemporary Indigenous figures. Kinew, a Canadian Ojibwa songwriter and politician, explains in an author's note that he wanted to write a book to let Native children know their worth and potential. The text has the feel of a song, with a repeated refrain of "You're a person who matters/Yes, it's true./Now go show the world what a person who matters can do." Kinew profiles his subjects briefly, and Morse's watercolor, digital, and collage illustrations provide contextual support, each realistic portrait depicting the subject in action within a specific setting. Many of the individuals highlighted will be more familiar to Canadian than to U.S. audiences, and most readers will need to refer to the appendix for more substantial biographical information. Morse's paintings are striking and full of movement. However, he depicts a wide range of historical periods, geographic locations, and Indigenous cultures that are not described; Morse doesn't provide sources for the traditional dress, symbols, and ceremonial objects seen in many of his paintings, nor are the tribes explicitly named. **VERDICT** A stirring, if uneven, lyric tribute to Indigenous heroes past and present. Medium to large collections may want to consider.—*Chelsea Couillard-Smith, Hennepin County Library, MN*

LEWIS, J. Patrick. *Phrases of the Moon*. illus. by Jori van der Linde. 32p. Creative Company. Sept. 2018. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9781568463117.

Gr 3-5—Filled with poems and myths about the moon, this collection is a mix of engaging imagery, interesting tidbits, and origin stories, sure to entice many readers. The entries range from the whimsical—how long it would take to drive to the moon?—to haiku about the sounds heard at bedtime. The second half of the book features various myths about the moon from "The Man in the Moon, a German Tale," to "Why There Are Fireflies, a Japanese Myth." The illustrations use an array of purples and blues, highlighting a cool nighttime feeling. Most

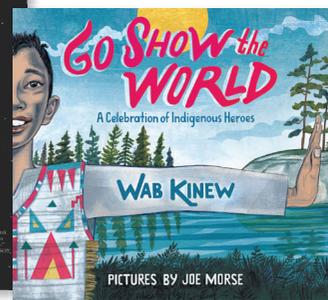
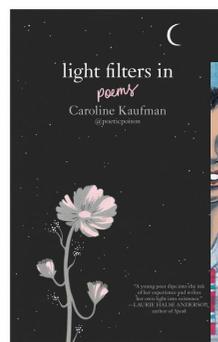
of the lines follow an ABAB format, but all have a delightful rhythm to them. This is a short, eclectic mix of inspirational tales and poems that could offer many curriculum connections among mythology, poetry, and creative writing. **VERDICT** A solid purchase for elementary poetry collections.—*Molly Dettmann, Norman North High School, OK*

REIBSTEIN, Mark. *Yugen*. illus. by Ed Young. 36p. Triangle Square. Sept. 2018. Tr \$17.95. ISBN 9781609808655.

Gr 4-6—Having collaborated on the award-winning *Wabi Sabi*, Reibstein and Young return here to examine a mother and son bond. “Yugen” is both a term of endearment for protagonist Eugene and a word encompassing “the subtle and profound... the sad beauty of human suffering,” according to an author’s note. Written from the child’s perspective, the haiku describe how Yugen’s mother held him when it was cold, placed blankets under the cherry tree so they could watch the petals “fall like snow,” and invented imaginary jaunts to Japan as they climbed into a “deep hot bath.” Each spread presents one haiku in the Japanese style—a single vertical line without periods. Characterized by sensory images and an atmosphere of fleeting joy, they are bordered on the verso by warm, textured art with the look of papyrus. This also becomes the canvas for Young’s charcoal scenes on the recto. At times, the strong figural outlines evoke Mary Cassatt; others are softly blurred, without features, or they emerge from negative space. When the mother is “gone again,” reunion seems more tenuous; Yugen communes with his cat while undertaking familiar rituals. Sensitive older readers will respond to his wistful yearning, feeling the pleasure and pain of memory that accompanies love and separation. **VERDICT** A gorgeously crafted, complex work. A strong choice for robust poetry collections.—*Wendy Lukehart, District of Columbia Public Library*

SETTEL, Joanne. *Your Amazing Skin from Outside In*. illus. by Bonnie Timmons. 96p. bibliog. further reading. glossary. websites. S. & S./Atheneum. Sept. 2018. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 9781481422055.

Gr 3-6—Settel offers detailed information about skin. Most of the facts are about human dermis layers and their functions, but some unique animal skin features are also explained. Melanin, blood clots, sweat, freckles, sunburn, fingerprints, and more are all described in clever rhyming verse that reads nicely. “Where a mosquito lands depends on who among your nearby friends/gives off the sweat that carries more/of what these pests are looking for.” The poems are sometimes accompanied by informational text. Different fonts distinguish the speakers when the poems include a question-and-



answer structure. All spreads include comical and enlightening cartoon illustrations, including some excellent cross sections, which add to the light humorous approach to the biological information. Readers are likely to hope for more of these anatomy lessons and poems from Settel. Educators will appreciate the opportunity to talk about nonfiction text features and formats while teaching health and science. **VERDICT** This equally informative and entertaining combination of poetry and anatomical science is a fine addition for libraries serving middle grade readers.—*Elaine Fultz, Madison Jr. Sr. High School, Middletown, OH*

★ **SLADE, Suzanne. *Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon*.** illus. by Thomas Gonzalez. 144p. bibliog. notes. photos. Peachtree. Sept. 2018. Tr \$22.95. ISBN 9781682630136.

Gr 5 Up—This stunning book accurately details the U.S. space race to the moon and the very real dangers and pitfalls that accompanied it. Slade’s carefully crafted, often alliterative text, written in free verse, is both succinct and readable, drawing this large topic down to the most necessary and interesting facts with enough detail to excite young teens as well as adults who may have lived through the missions. Gonzalez states in a note that his goal was “to create the illusion of being there,” and indeed he has, from the science fiction–looking cover, which shows the moon’s glowing reflection on an astronaut’s helmet, to the lifelike portraits of the astronauts in pastels, watercolor, colored pencil, and airbrush. The text emphasizes the short amount of time it took for the program to succeed, from the first ill-fated mission in January, 1967, to Apollo 11 in July, 1969, that carried two men to the moon. **VERDICT** Truly out of this world. A must-buy for most poetry collections.—*Susan Scheps, formerly at Shaker Public Library, OH*

VAN DE VENDEL, Edward. *I'll Root for You*. illus. by Wolf Erlbruch. 44p. Eerdmans. Aug. 2018. Tr \$17. ISBN 9780802855015.

Gr 3 Up—Are you ready to run, shout, and stretch? Van de Vendel’s rhyming poems encourage children to do their best as they

join a frog, a cat, a pig, and a few dogs in a variety of sports. They can win the race in “A Magic Place” or play with Cat in “Impossible Things.” The illustrations are quirky and fun with animals wearing sportswear, including a duck in a blue tracksuit, a pig in a swimsuit, and a frog in running shorts. Erlbruch’s humorous depictions of lively and exhausted animals pushing through to the finish line will have readers chuckling. However, while some rhymes work, others seem strained. Also, some poems contain content or jokes that seem directed toward a more mature audience. **VERDICT** Have students pick and choose their favorites and then get moving with this collection of sporty poems.—*Paige Bentley-Flannery, Deschutes Public Library, Bend, OR*

WATERS, Fiona. *Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year*. illus. by Frann Preston-Gannon. 336p. index. Nosy Crow. Oct. 2018. Tr \$40. ISBN 9781536202472.

Gr 3 Up—This beautiful anthology of nature poems delivers just what it promises: a poem for each day of the year, organized by date, from January through December. The poems vary in length, format, and structure, and the volume lends itself well to casual browsing, independent and shared reading, read-alouds, and/or direct instruction. There is, however, a preponderance of white male poets; writers of color are woefully underrepresented. Further, the majority of contributors are either British or American, and many are known for their 19th- and early 20th-century work. While the entries are evocative and rich with figurative language, the mixed media illustrations really steal the show. The artwork charmingly complements the selected poems, and is sure to capture the attention of young readers. Physically, the book is quite heavy, and might be a bit unwieldy for kids to carry or fit in their backpacks. The collection also includes indices of poets, poems, and first lines. **VERDICT** Libraries seeking an inclusive sampling of contemporary poets will be better served elsewhere.—*Lauren Strohecker, McKinley Elementary School, Elkins Park, PA*

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