

Resources to Use with LOVE THAT DOG by Sharon Creech



Compiled by Marcie Flinchum Atkins

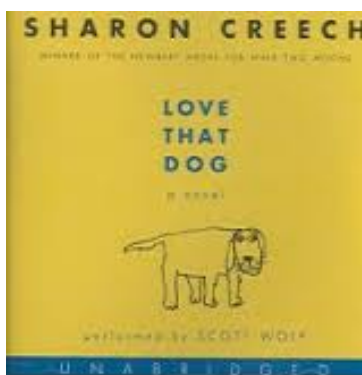
www.marcieatkins.com

AUDIO



[THE DEAD POETS CD](#)

You want to make young kids love and laugh about William Blake? This CD is one that I found several years ago at a teachers' conference. They sing poems by dead poets. The first one on the CD is a rendition of "The Tyger" by William Blake, which is one of the poems that Jack doesn't understand in LOVE THAT DOG. It's catchy and makes the kids dance to William Blake.



[LOVE THAT DOG Audiobook](#)

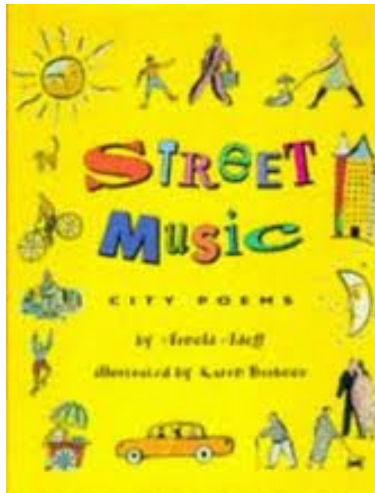
Performed by [Scott Wolf](#)
HarperChildren's Audio

This is one of the books I do totally as a read aloud, but every student has a copy. But I don't read it aloud. I let Scott Wolf do the reading. I first had this audiobook on cassette tape, then graduated to CD. His performance is fabulous, and we can pause it and talk about various poems and flip to the back to look at the originals.

READERS' THEATER

[Check out this Readers' Theater Version of LOVE THAT DOG featuring Walter Dean Myers, Sharon Creech, Avi, and Sarah Weeks.](#) It's always my culminating activity. Just like Jack, my students are amazed that these authors are REAL people.

ARNOLD ADOFF



STREET MUSIC: CITY POEMS

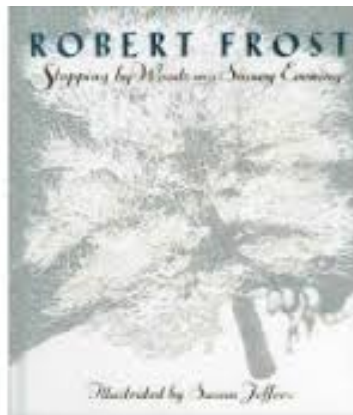
by [Arnold Adoff](#)

Illustrated by [Karen Barbour](#)

HarperCollins, 1995

This fabulous collection of city poems is out of print, but you might be lucky enough to find it at your library or at a used bookstore. It includes the poem "Street Music," which Jack refers to in the book and fourteen other city poems. This is a great book to look at when showing kids different forms of poetry because these poems don't look like other poems they've read in LOVE THAT DOG. Adoff plays with space throughout these poems. Barbour's loose paintings with bright colors bring these busy city poems to life. If you can snag a copy of this book, do it.

ROBERT FROST



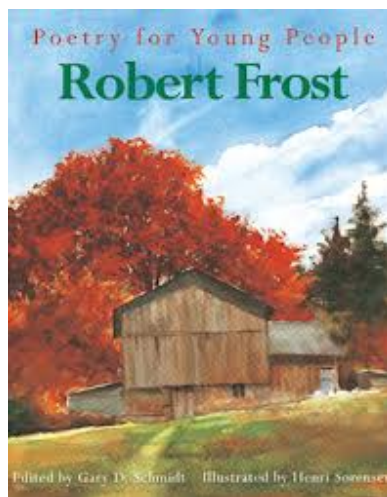
STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

by Robert Frost

Illustrated by [Susan Jeffers](#)

Scholastic, 1978

When I share "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," I always pull out this illustrated version. I got mine through Scholastic, but I've seen a hardcover version of this recently in Ollie's. Most of the illustrations are black and white drawings. But Jeffers throws in a little color. It is stunning and really gave me a new appreciation of the poem, and it also brings the poem to life for young readers.



ROBERT FROST (Poetry for Young People Series)

Edited by [Gary D. Schmidt](#)

Illustrated by Henri Sorensen

Scholastic, 1994

This collection does not feature "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," but it does divide some of Frost's poems up by season. It includes "The Pasture" which is mentioned by Jack in LOVE THAT DOG.



Papa is a Poet: A Story About Robert Frost

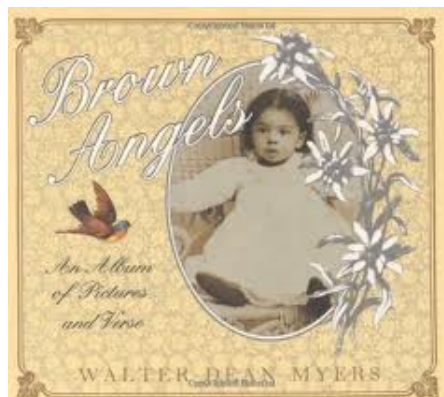
By Natalie S. Bober

Illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon

Christy Ottaviano/Henry Holt, 2013

This story is told in first person, through the eyes of Robert Frost's daughter, Lesley. Lesley tells of the time when the Frosts lived on a farm in New Hampshire. Sprinkled throughout the narrative are pieces of Frost's poems and they become part of the story as she tells about the landscape and their memories. Lesley tells about their family routines on the farm, her father's love of books, and how he taught them to pay attention. It also tells how he moved to England, away from America, and upon his return, finally saw the success of his work. The back matter includes an author's note, Robert Frost quotations, and reprints of many of his poems.

WALTER DEAN MYERS



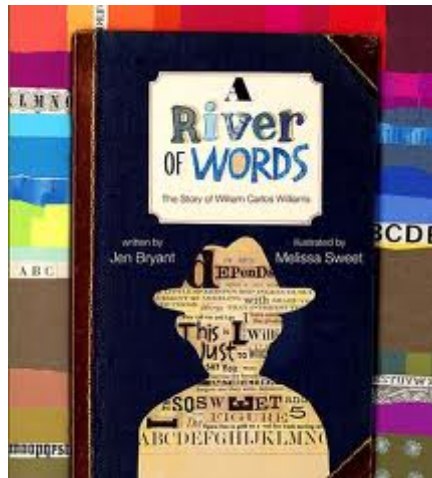
BROWN ANGELS: AN ALBUM OF PICTURES AND VERSE

by Walter Dean Myers

HarperCollins, 1993

The poem that inspired Jack's "Love that Dog" poem is in this book. "Love That Boy" by Walter Dean Myers is in this book, in its entirety. Jack only writes one stanza, but Myers' original poem has four. The poems in this collection are illustrated with actual photographs, both the author's and borrowed from sources like the Library of Congress. The black and white photos of African American children are absolutely beautiful.

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS



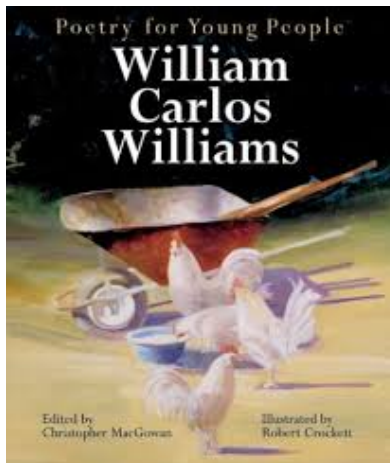
A RIVER OF WORDS: THE STORY OF WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

by [Jen Bryant](#)

Illustrated by [Melissa Sweet](#)

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008.

This is a phenomenal introduction to William Carlos Williams. The illustrations, done on the pages of old books, are filled with words and make every page interesting to study. His poems are woven in the illustrations and typed on the end papers. The back matter includes a timeline of Williams' life, an author's note, an illustrator's note, and a list of resources for further reading. I love reading this with students after we've read some of Williams' poems.



[WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS \(Poetry for Young People series\)](#)

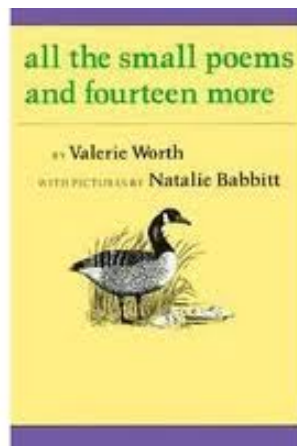
Edited by Christopher MacGowan

Illustrated by Robert Crockett

Scholastic, 2004

This "Poetry for Young People" series is one that I recommend, and can be found often during April (Poetry Month) in [Scholastic Book Club flyers](#). Each book, about a different famous poet, comes with a brief biography about the poet, and each poem features commentary/explanations and illustrations. I use this to show students the illustration of "The Red Wheelbarrow."

VALERIE WORTH



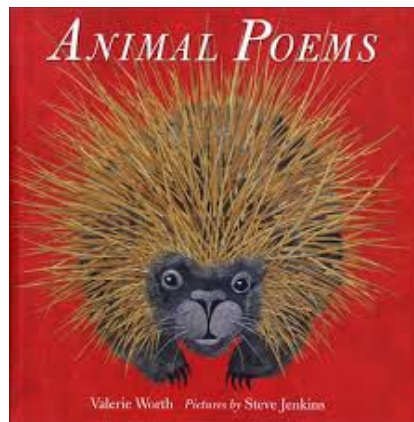
ALL THE SMALL POEMS AND FOURTEEN MORE

by Valerie Worth

Illustrated by Natalie Babbitt

FSG, 1994

This collection of small poems features all of the "small" poems mentioned by Jack in LOVE THAT DOG. Kids always beg me to read more of these small poems.



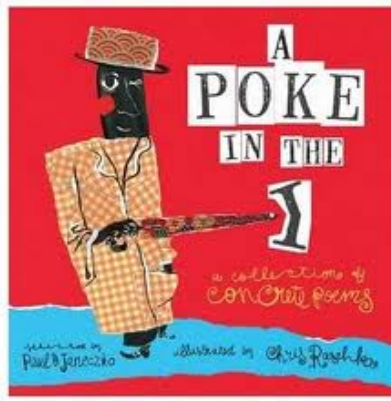
ANIMAL POEMS

by Valerie Worth

Illustrated by Steve Jenkins

Take some of Valerie Worth's small poems, add Steve Jenkins' amazing collages, and you get this beautiful collection in a picture book format. Even though Worth's poems are extremely kid-friendly, this picture book makes them even more so.

CONCRETE POETRY



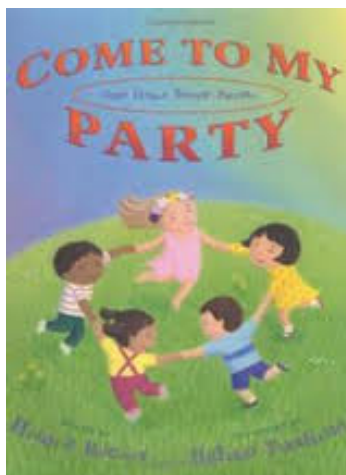
A POKE IN THE I: A COLLECTION OF CONCRETE POEMS

Selected by [Paul B. Janeczko](#)

Illustrated by [Chris Raschka](#)

Candlewick, 2001

What I love about this book is that it's a great introduction for concrete poetry. [Janeczko](#) gives a brief introduction to concrete poetry, but the collection itself is varied. Lots of different styles are represented. Combined with Raschka's unique style of whimsical illustrations, this book is a must-have when introducing concrete poetry to all ages.



COME TO MY PARTY: AND OTHER SHAPE POEMS

by [Heidi B. Roemer](#)

Illustrated by [Hideko Takahashi](#)

Henry Holt, 2004

I found this gem of a book at my local library. Separated by season, the kid-friendly poems and illustrations are ones that would be fun for kids to emulate. These poems combine the shape of concrete poetry with the rhythm and rhyme of structured poetry.



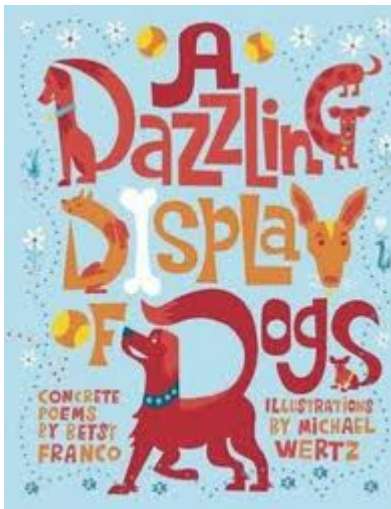
[A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF CATS](#)

by [Betsy Franco](#)

Illustrated by [Michael Wertz](#)

Tricycle Press, 2009

These fun poems about cats combined with Wertz's fantastic illustrations really make for a stunning book. The words pop off the page, and readers will be amazed at how many poems Franco could write just about cats. This would be a fun book to pair with Bartoletti's [NOBODY'S NOSIER THAN A CAT](#) or Creech's [HATE THAT CAT](#).



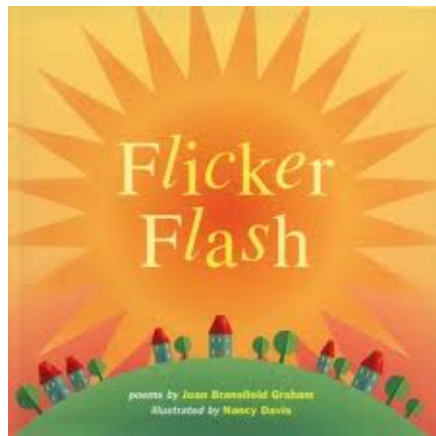
[A DAZZLING DISPLAY OF DOGS](#)

by [Betsy Franco](#)

Illustrated by [Michael Wertz](#)

Tricycle Press, 2011

Another amazing collection of concrete poems by Franco and Wertz. Both of their books would be great examples for readers on how small, everyday things make GREAT poetry. It would be also great to pair this book with Bartoletti's [NOBODY'S DIGGIER THAN A DOG](#) or Creech's [LOVE THAT DOG](#).



FLICKER FLASH
by [Joan Bransfield Graham](#)
Illustrated by Nancy Davis
Houghton Mifflin, 1999

I've been using this book a long time in science with my electricity and Earth, Moon, Sun units. With poems about Edison's lightbulb and Franklin's kite experiment, I not only introduce students to great poetry, I'm also covering SOLs in science. One of my favorite things to do with this book is to use it as a mentor text to show young writers how you can take a science concept and create a poem out of it.



SPLISH SPLASH
by [Joan Bransfield Graham](#)
Illustrated by Steve Scott
Ticknor & Fields, 1994

These concrete poems are about all things water. Clouds, snow, ice, waterfalls and sprinklers are just some of the concepts behind these poems. With stellar word choice, these would also be great examples of how ordinary, everyday things can be made into poems.