

# Poetry

## K-2

Scanlon, Liz Garton. *All the World*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2009. Family. Community. World. With child-friendly simplicity author Scanlon and illustrator Marla Frazee zoom outward from smallness to bigness, from seashore in sunshine to restaurants and woods and skylscapes and endless connections, leading readers into a wider world, nurtured by families and communities encompassing interracial and same-sex couples, single parents, old folks, teens, and babies. All the world is all of us.

Schertle, Alice. *Button Up!: Wrinkled Rhymes*. New York: Harcourt Children's Books, 2009. Joshua's Jammies belong *only* to Joshua. Tanya's t-shirt is called a dust rag! (I don't think that's fair!) Bertie's shoelaces just hang around. Incorporating a variety of rhyme schemes and meters, fifteen poems reflect children's relationships with these intimate possessions, though in this case Joshua is an alligator, Tanya is a bear, and Bertie is an otter.

## 3-4

Harley, Avis. *African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways*. Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2009. Eighteen double-page spreads feature Avis Harley's carefully crafted word imagery and often surprising vertical messages along with photos that perfectly encapsulate the poem, providing a nature lesson as well as an inventive way to look at African animals. Photographer Deborah Noyes took many of the photos around or near water holes, and her notes explain not only the beauty of the environment and challenges of the project, but the importance of water to the Namibian people.

Hughes, Langston. *My People*. New York: Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009. Some 86 years after its original publication, the 33 words in Langston Hughes' poem are again brought to life in simple yet brilliant photographs that celebrate the pride Hughes had for his black brothers and sisters. Babies, children, adults – Smith's faces display the best that humanity has to offer: intelligence, wisdom, curiosity, love, joy.

## 5-6

*Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing and Shout*. Somerville, Mass. : Candlewick, 2009. Paul Janeczko's selection of 38 poems –some silly, some solemn, some spooky –create a superbly noisy celebration of language. Selections include poems to read aloud or in two voices, in English, or in Spanish. There are limericks, list poems, classic poems, contemporary poems, poems by well-known authors (Lewis Carroll, Walt Whitman, Shakespeare) and poets whose names you don't yet know. Chris Raschka's ink, watercolor and torn paper illustrations capture the spirit, sound and movement of the poetry but do not overpower the reader or the poem.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Looking Like Me*. New York : Egmont USA, 2009. Father and son Walter and Christopher Myers have created a vibrant synthesis of poetry and pictures celebrating a young man who looks in the mirror to see "a real handsome dude looking just like me," a take-off on Bill Martin's *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*. Moving through Harlem, the boy encounters family and friends who share their points of view about this boy, son, brother, friend, poet, dreamer. Innovative art and design depict different identities with an overall effect of performers in front of a huge screen of rapidly changing images. The blue, green, and purple images –not skin tones— make this a celebration not just of one boy, but of Everyman / Everyboy / Everychild.