

Barb's BookSpot: Episode 16
Celebrate Poetry!
April, 2017

FRESH-PICKED POETRY: A DAY AT THE FARMERS' MARKET. Text copyright © 2017 by Michelle Schaub. Illustrations © 2017 by Amy Huntington. Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc., Watertown, MA. A delight for the senses, this collection of poems captures all of the sights, sound, smells and excitement of a visit to a farmer's market. There are poems in a variety of forms, and illustrations capture the sense and essence of each beautifully. I get hungry just listening to some of them!

OUT OF WONDER. Text copyright © 2017 by Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderley, and Marjory Wentworth. Illustrations copyright © 2017 by Ekua Holmes. Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Candlewick Press, Somerville, MA. The poets and illustrator who created this book pay homage to other famous poems and poets by emulating their style, embracing their themes, or reimagining meaning in new ways for new audiences. Holmes' illustrations reflect the various ethnicities and cultures of the original poets. What a great way to appreciate both classic and new, and perhaps even use these as a model for inspiring your students to try their hands.

ONE LAST WORD: WISDOM FROM THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE. Text copyright © 2017 by Nikki Grimes. Illustrations copyright © 2017 by the following artists: James Ransome, R. Gregory Christie, Elizabeth Zunon, Frank Morrison, Cozbi A. Cabrera, Brian Pinkney, Christopher Myers, Shadra Strickland, Javaka Steptoe, Ebony Glenn, Pat Cummings, E.B. Lewis, Jan Spivey Gilchrist, Nikki Grimes, Sean Qualls. Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Bloomsbury Children's Books, New York, NY. Nikki Grimes plays with the form called "golden shovel" to celebrate the poets of the Harlem Renaissance. She includes the original poems along with her new poems, and like ripples or reflections, she carries the original themes and wisdom out to a wider audience. Each poem is illustrated by a different artist, capturing the spirit and message of the poem in a more visible dimension.

A SONG ABOUT MYSELF: A POEM BY JOHN KEATS. Text taken from the *Complete works of John Keats*, Vol. 2, edited by H. Buxton Forman, Glasgow, Scotland: Gowers & Gray, 1901. Illustrations © 2017 by Chris Raschka. Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Candlewick Press, Somerville, MA, and the creator, Chris Raschka. Keats wrote this poem at about age 19, just 3 years before he died and included it in a letter to his younger sister for her amusement. Keats was on a journey to Scotland and seems to emphasize lightness and novelty over the staid, classic poetry styles of his time. Raschka's illustrations celebrate the joy and fun of this nonsense piece, bringing it alive for new, young readers. Readers can play with the words, rhythm and emphasis as they read this aloud.

