


Affiliated Materials

Take the Road Less Traveled:
dynamic ways to introduce children to poetry



The image shows three poetry book covers. The top one is 'Firefly July' by Kim A. Harrison, featuring a colorful illustration of fireflies and a windmill. The middle one is 'Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems' by Bob Raczka, with a grey, textured cover. The bottom one is 'Cast Away: Poems for our time' by Naoki Srinath Nye, with a vibrant, multi-colored cover.





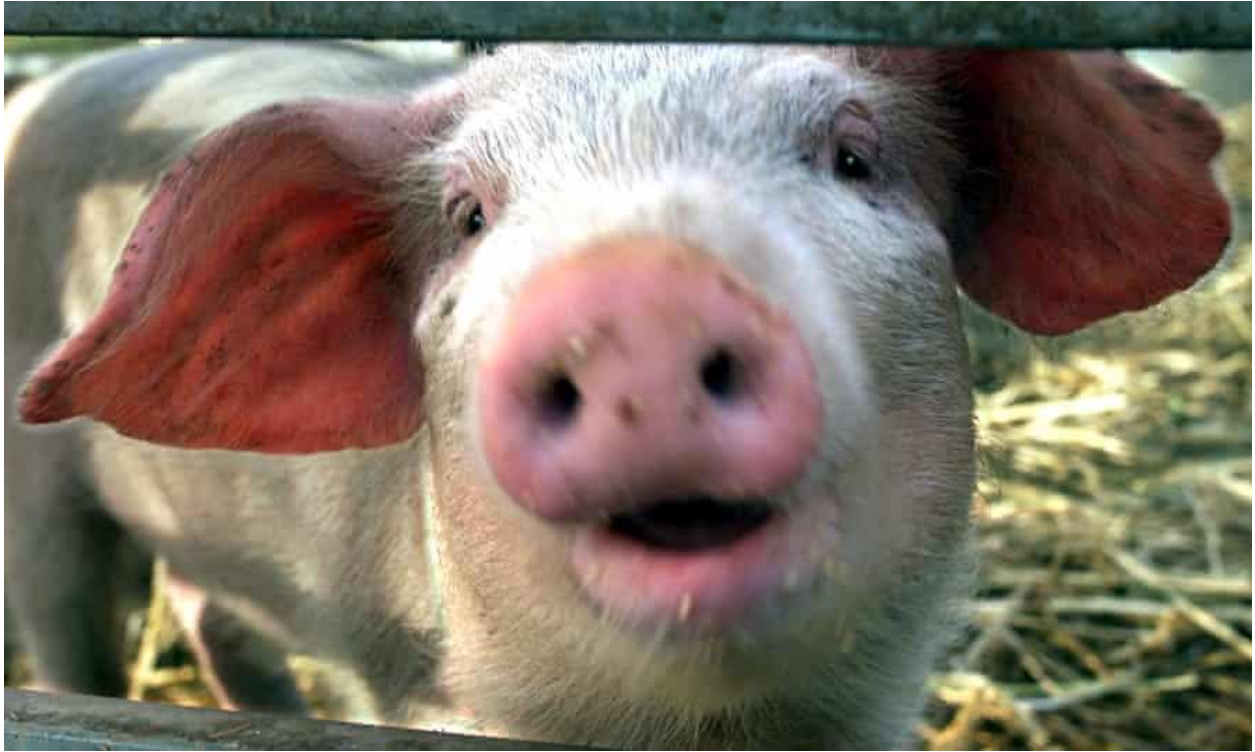














T OTALLY
U NHURRIED, YOU
R ATER LIKE
T O BASK
L AZILY,
E NCASED IN SUMMER.



*From Gibber, Animal Acrostics written and illustrated
by Tessa Howell (c) 2016*

Cats

C urred up in a small fluff-ball
A ll snug and warm
T hinking of mice and milk
S lowly falling to sleep



I Don't Know What to Do Today

I don't know what to do today.
Perhaps I'll go outside and play,
or stay indoors and watch TV,
or take a bath, or climb a tree.

Or maybe I'll go ride my bike,
or pick my nose, or take a hike,
or jump a rope, or scratch my head,
or play a game, or stay in bed,
or dance a jig, or pet the cat,
or drink some milk, or buy a hat,
or sing a song, or read a book,
or change my socks, or learn to cook,
or dig a hole, or eat a pear,
or call my friends, or brush my hair,
or hold my breath, or have a race,
or stand around and slap my face.

I'm so confused, and bored, and blue,
to not know what I ought to do.
I guess that I should just ask you.
So, what do you think I should do?

–Kenn Nesbitt

climb a tree

ride my bike

take a hike

dance a jig

jump a rope

scratch my head

buy a hat

sing a song

read a book

dig a hole

change my socks

learn to cook

dig a hole

call my friends

brush my hair

hold my breath

have a race

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WET

CEMENT

A
MIX
— OF —
CONCRETE
POEMS

BOB RACZKA



balloon

When
it first slipped out
of my hand, I was sad
to see my balloon floating
away, but as it rose higher
in the sky, I imagined it land-
ing in some faraway yard,
where a kid like me would
find it and wonder how
far the balloon had
flown and who
held it
best,
and that thought made me smile.

C b c k

The clock on the wall
says it's five 'til free.
The kids in my class say
it's five 'til free.
The wall says it's five 'til free.
The clock on the wall says it's five 'til free.
The kids in my class say it's five 'til free.

CH

T

CO

S

OP

H

BLUE SKY?

high

to the

way

hop our

could

if we

What

erac:er

ERASERS WILL STICK BY YOU,
ON THAT YOU CAN DEPEND,
FORGIVING ALL YOUR DUMB MISSTAKES—
A PAPER FULL OF LIGHT GREENS &

Reconnais-toi
Celle adorable personne c'est toi
votre sœur la grande sœur
c'est toi
P. Labiche
le pape de la figure catholique

La
voilà
l'impure
faute niage
de ton buste
dore un monde
à travers sa main

Les yeux
au plus bas
l'istère
coeur
qui
bat

Cherry Egg
 Sprinkles
 Whipped Cream
 Cupcake Sweet
 VANILLA
 Cupcake Egg
 RED VELVET
 Cupcakes Cupcake
 Frosting
 M I K S U G A R
 F L O U R
 B I R T H D A Y
 S W E E T
 S U G A R
 O V E N
 S P R I N K L E S
 E G G



COCONUT TREE TALL LONG

SAILING!

BEACHES PROMET
LONIM SULTUMBELLA SIMO
WATER CRESCURET SHOVEL SWI
TUMBELLA MAS BESS
SIN SANDY BOLES SHELLS T

DOWN BY THE BAY

Have you ever seen a _____

(Animal)

(Action / Action Phrase)

DOWN BY THE BAY!

↑ (Rhyming word)

Hint: This word should rhyme with the Animal you selected.

Example: if I selected a llama, here is where I would write the word: pajamas. Why? Because it rhymes!

DOWN BY THE BAY EXAMPLE

Have you ever seen a _____

Llama

(Animal)

Wearing Pink

(Action / Action Phrase)

Pajamas

DOWN BY THE BAY!

↑ (Rhyming word)