



Science in Poetry:

Picture Books and Poetry Collections that Weave Fact and Form

Marcie Flinchum Atkins
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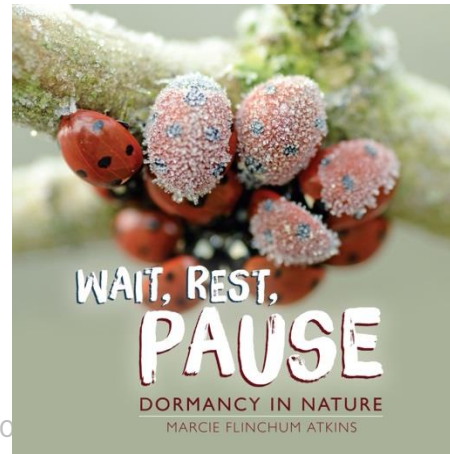
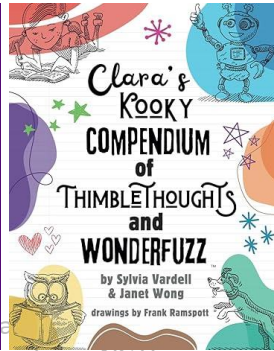
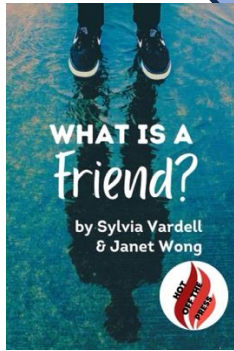
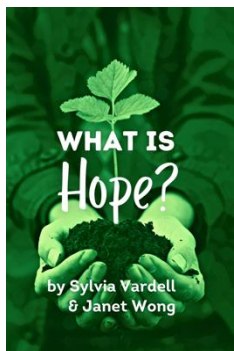
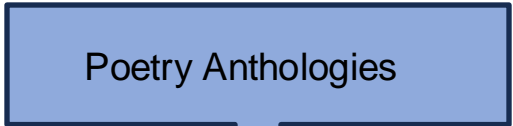
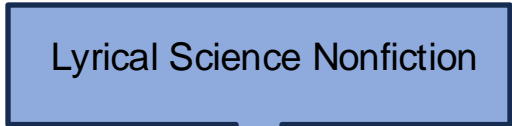
Marcie Flinchum Atkins

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Writer – Poet

K-6 Public School Librarian
Former Elementary Classroom Teacher



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Defining our Terms

Poetry
Collections

Poetry
Anthologies

Poems as
Picture
Books

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Poetry Collections



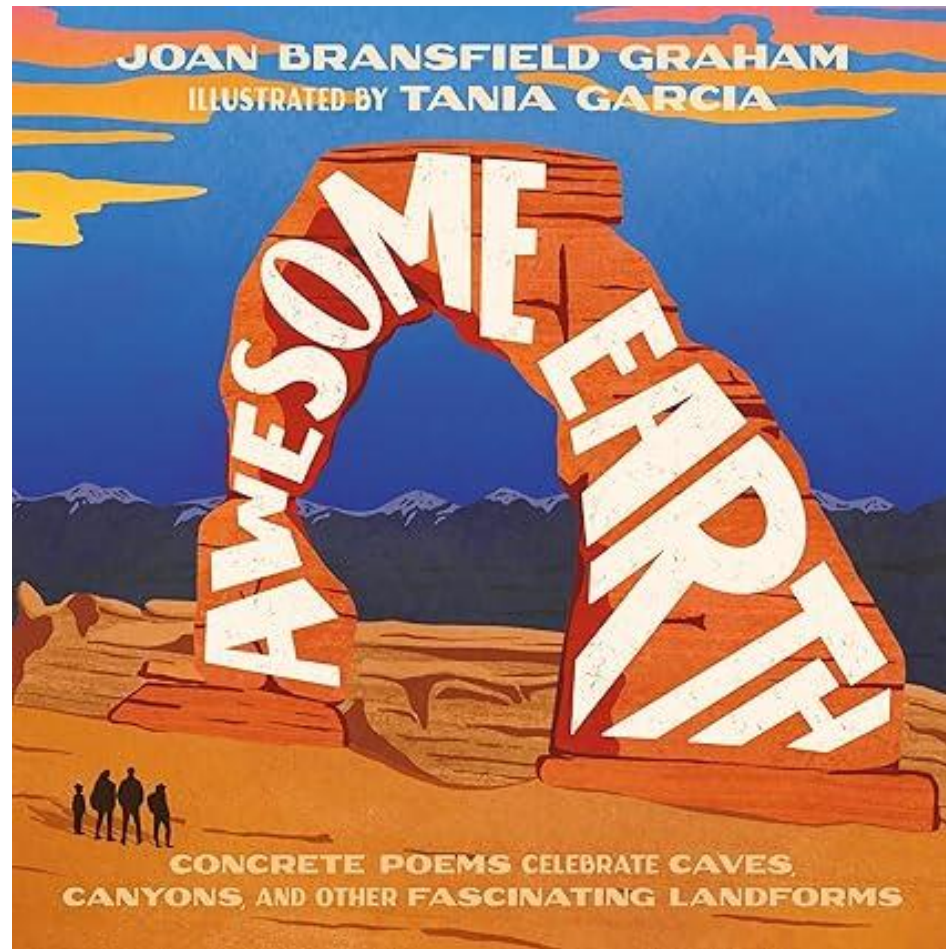


“Poets find facts
beautiful.”

–Dorianne Laux

Also
Recommended:

Flicker Flash



Awesome Earth: Concrete Poems Celebrate Caves, Canyons, and Other Fascinating Landforms

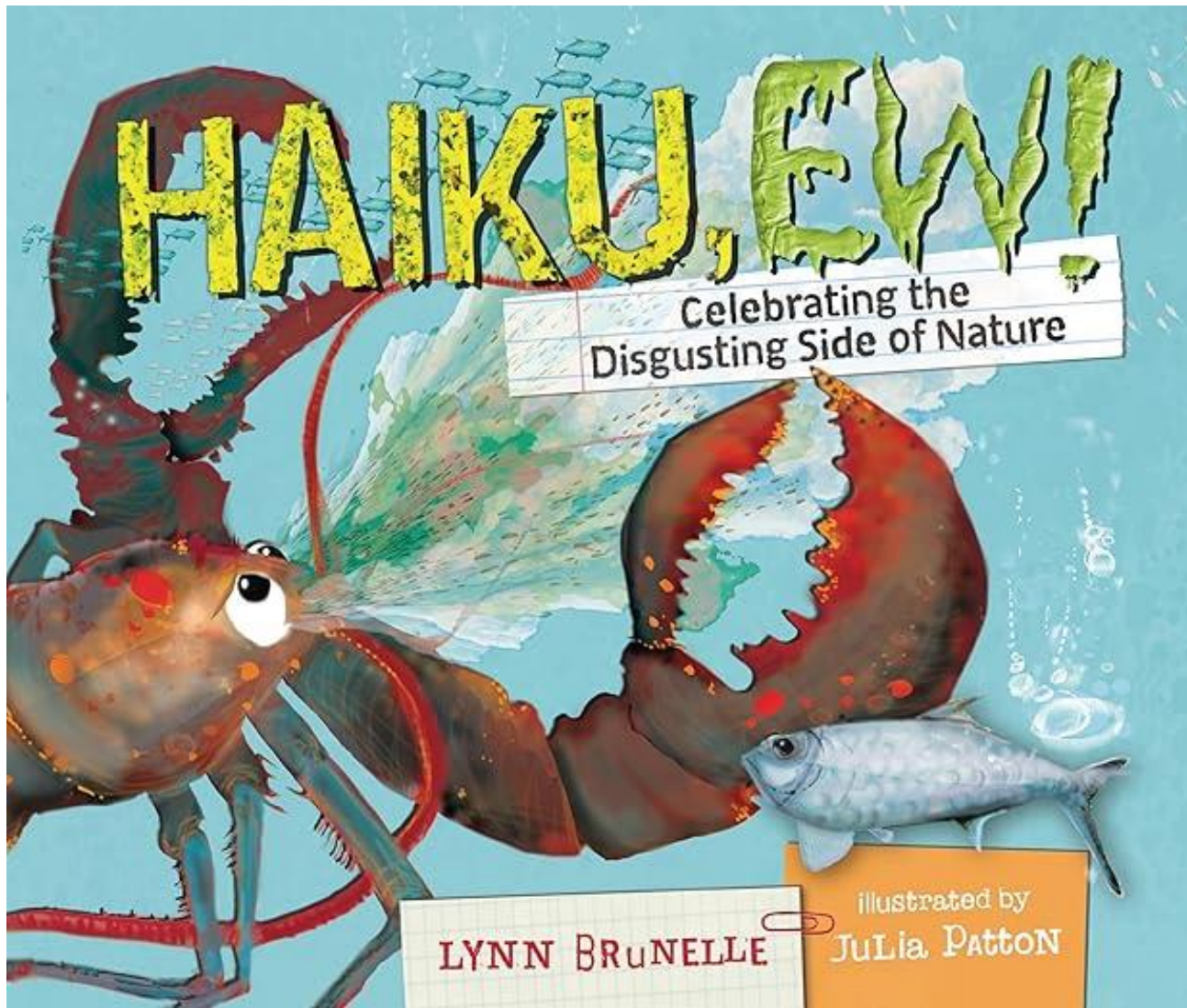
by Joan Bransfield Graham, illustrated by Tania Garcia
Clarion, February 2025

Coming
in 2025

- Extensive back matter
- Concrete poems
- Geology terms

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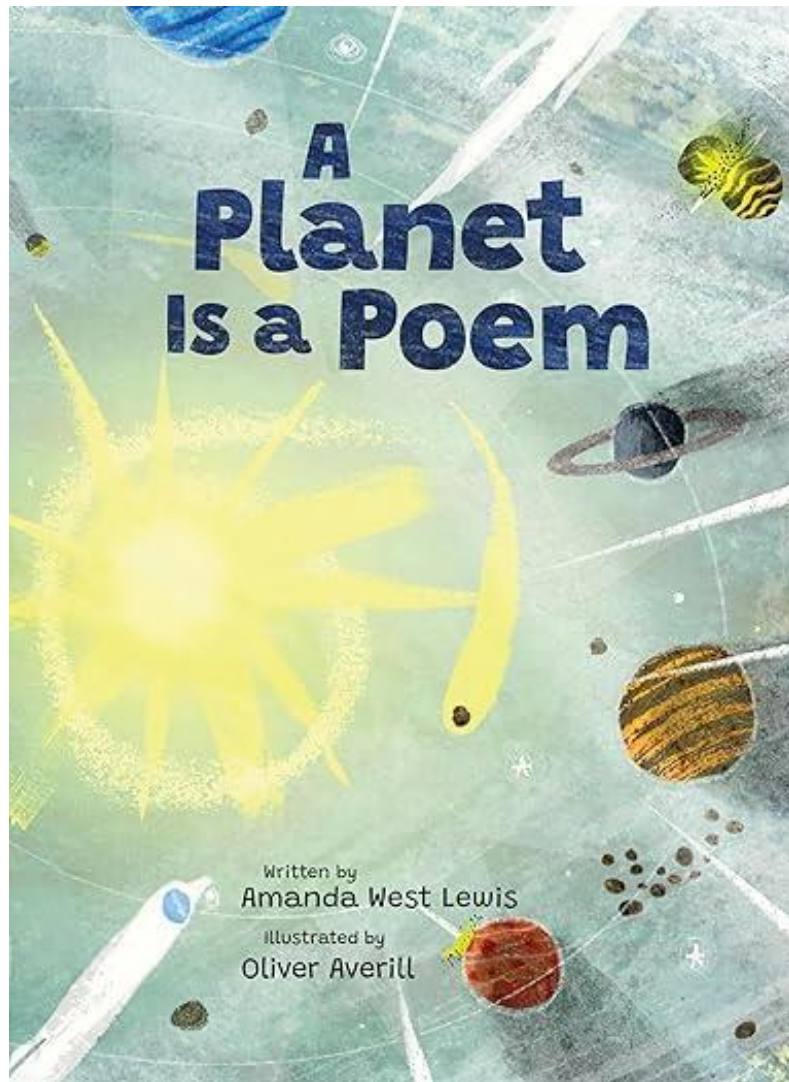


Haiku, Ew! Celebrating the Disgusting Side of Nature
by Lynn Brunelle, illustrated by Julia Patton
Millbrook Press, 2024

- Haiku
- Science sidebars
- Funny & gross
- Extensive back matter

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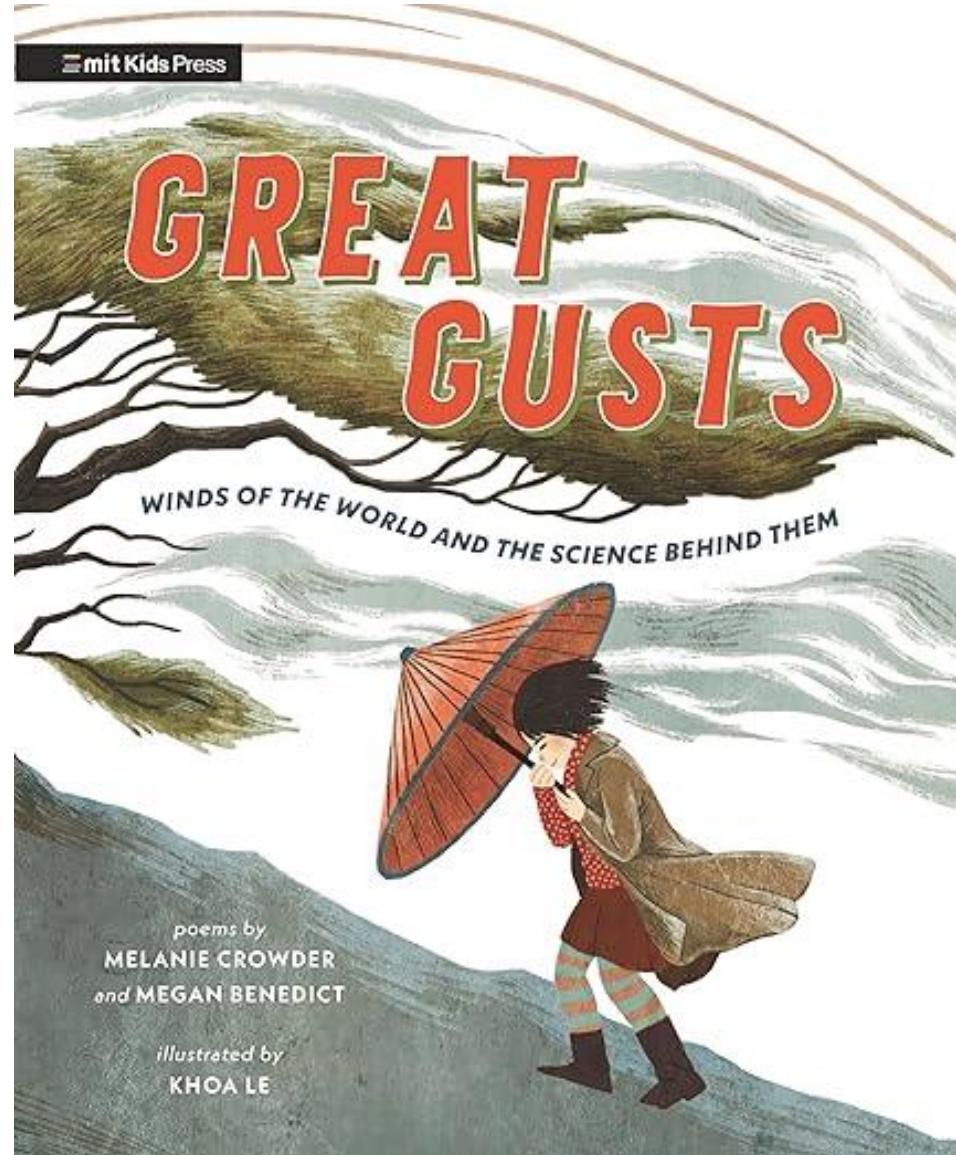


A Planet is a Poem
by Amanda West Lewis, illustrated by Oliver Averil
Kids Can Press, 2024

- Variety of poetic forms
- More complex forms: villanelle, sonnet, ballad, sestina
- Science sidebars
- Sidebars about the poetic form
- Back matter

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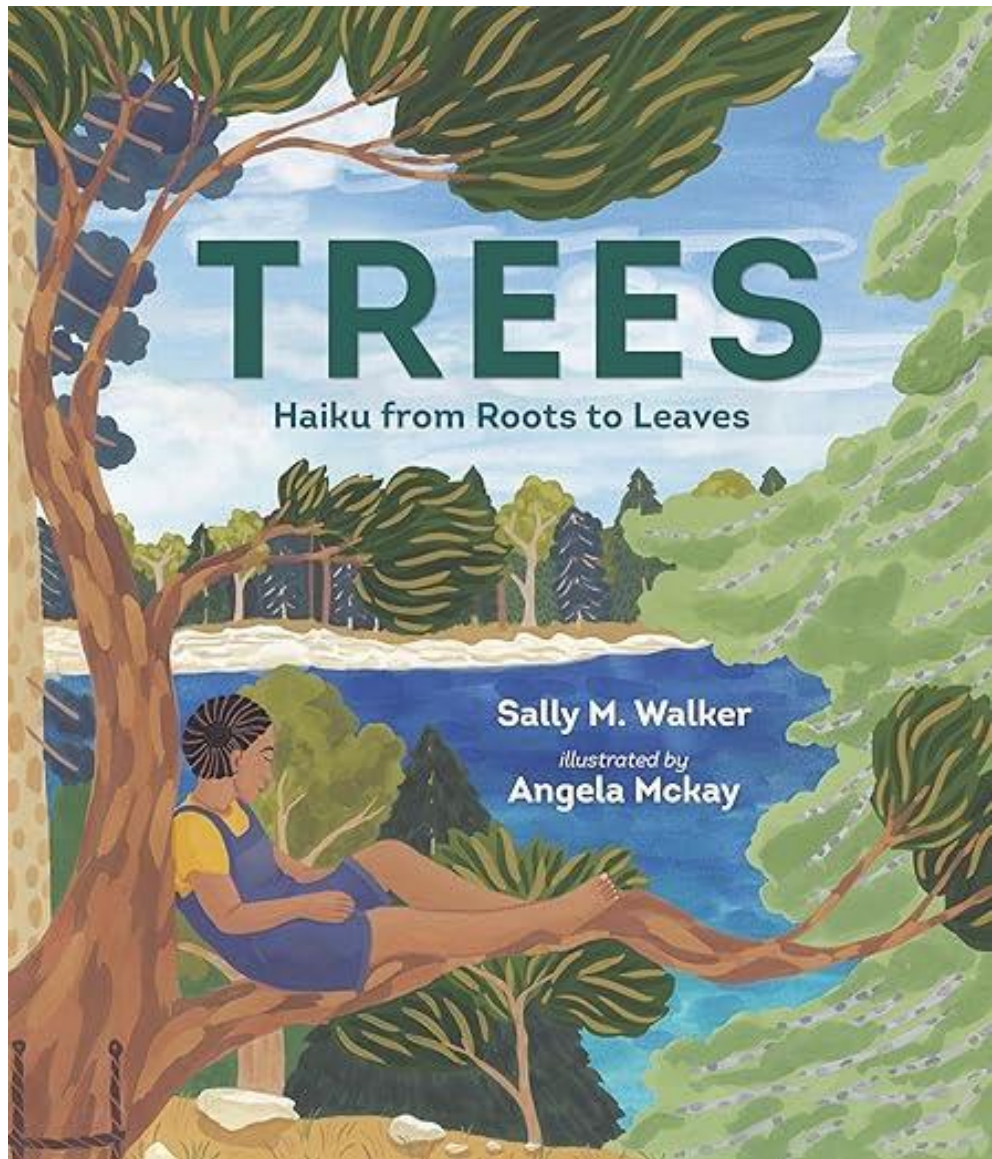


Great Gusts: Winds of the World and the Science Behind Them
by Melanie Crowder and Megan Benedict, illustrated by Khoa Le
MIT Kids Press, 2024

- Extensive back matter
- Variety of poetic forms
- Science sidebars
- Geography connections + Wind (weather) connections

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Trees: Haiku from Roots to Leaves
by Sally M. Walker, illustrated by Angela Mckay
Candlewick 2023

Also
Recommended:

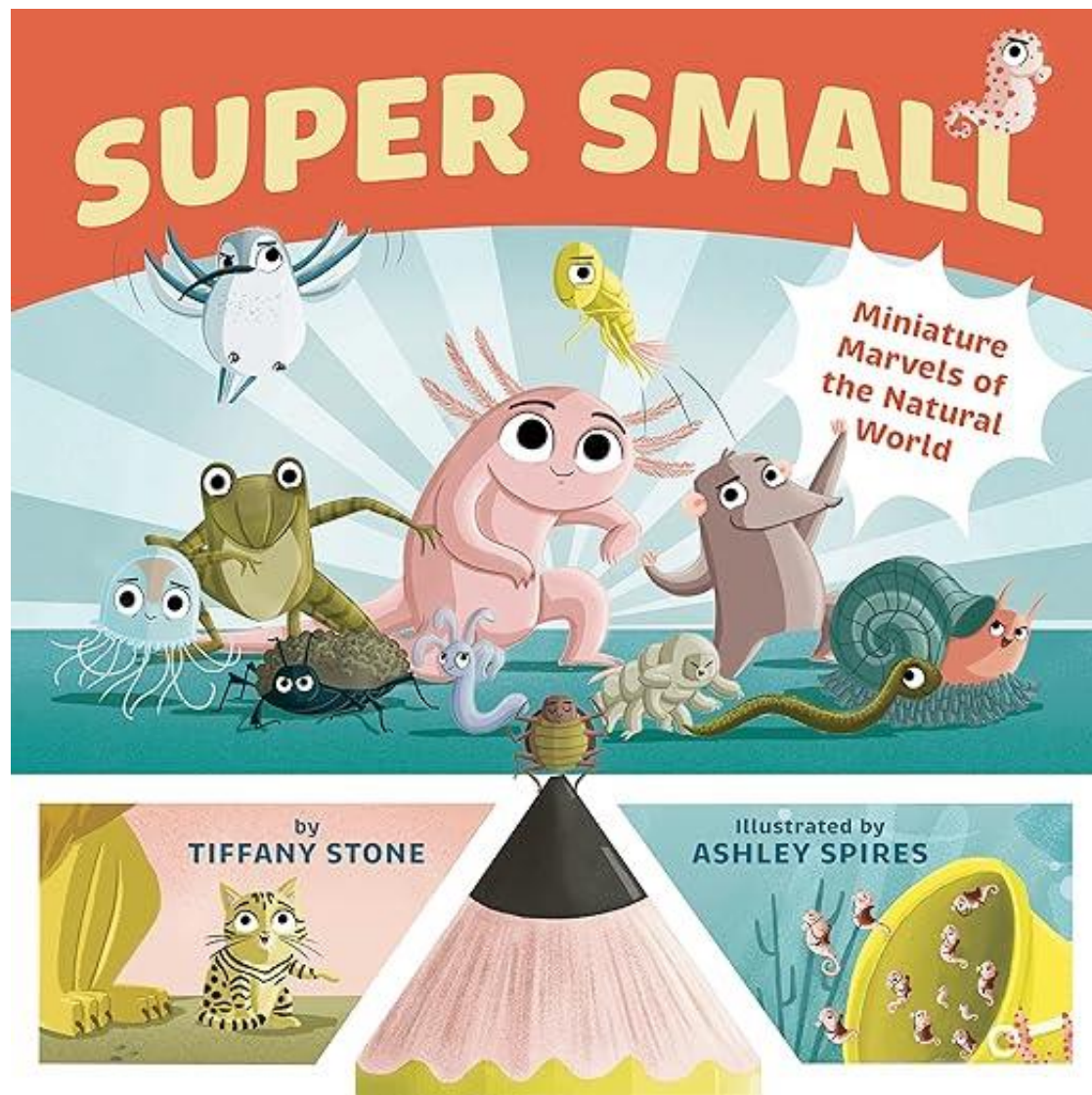
Out of this World: Star-Studded Haiku

Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up

- Haiku
- Tree science
- Extensive back matter

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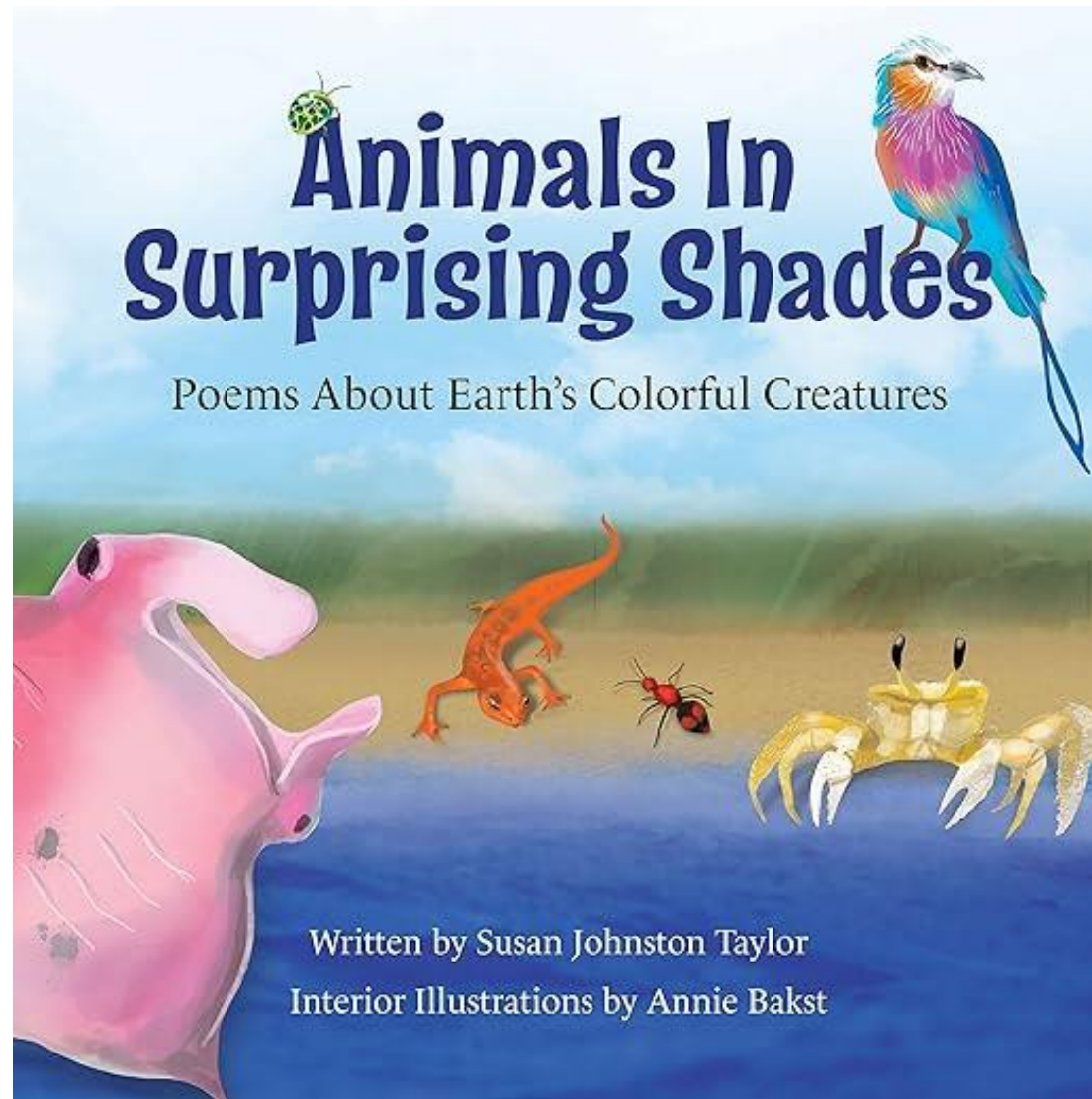


Super Small: Miniature Marvels of the Nature World
by Tiffany Stone, illustrated by Ashley Spires
Greystone Kids, 2023

- Humorous
- Sidebars are graphic-style
- Rhyming
- Varying POVs

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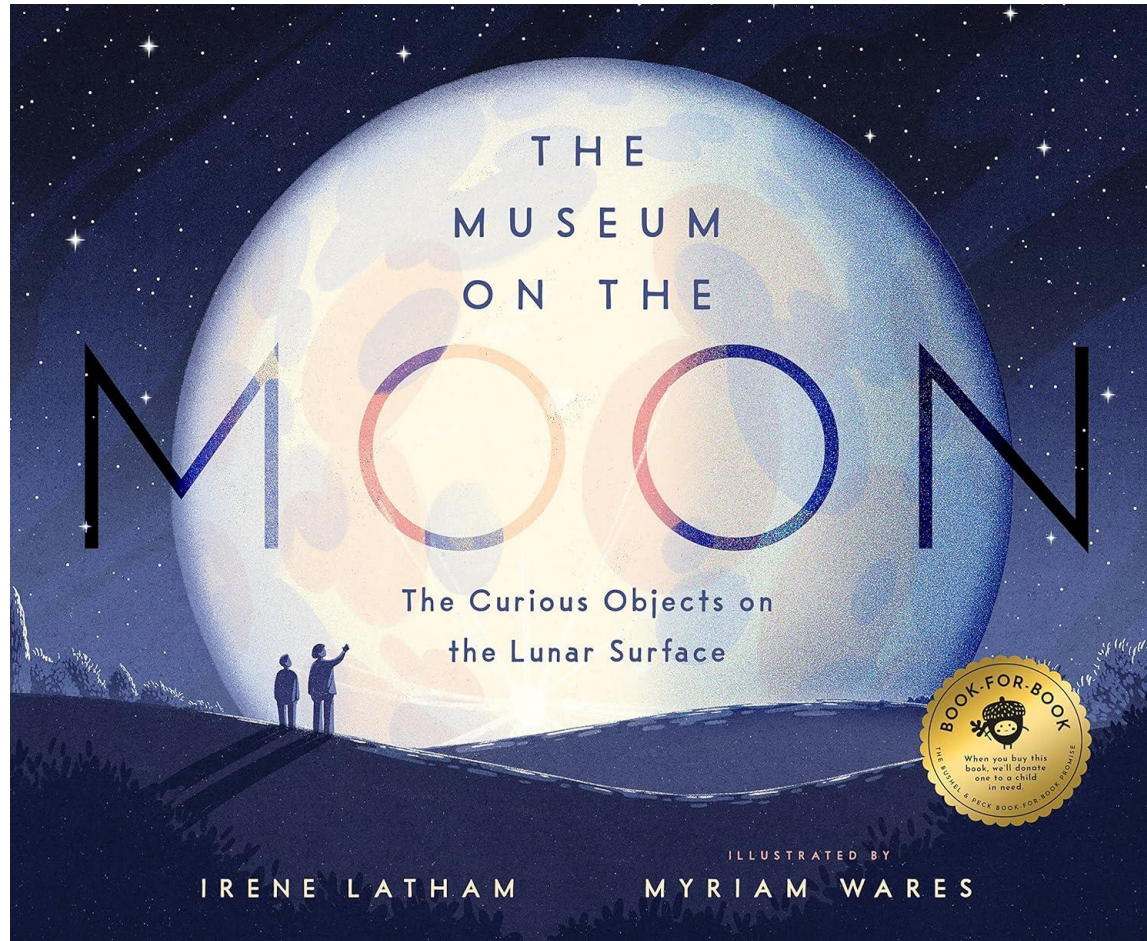


Animals in Surprising Shades: Poems about Earth's Colorful Creatures
by Susan Johnston Taylor, illustrated by Annie Bakst
Gnome Road, 2023

- Variety of Poetic Forms
- Structural Adaptations
- Science sidebars
- Poetic information in sidebars

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The Museum on the Moon: The Curious Objects on the Lunar Surface
by Irene Latham, illustrated by Myriam Wares
Moonshower, 2023

- Space + History
- Variety of poetic forms
- Sidebars with each poem
- Extensive back matter

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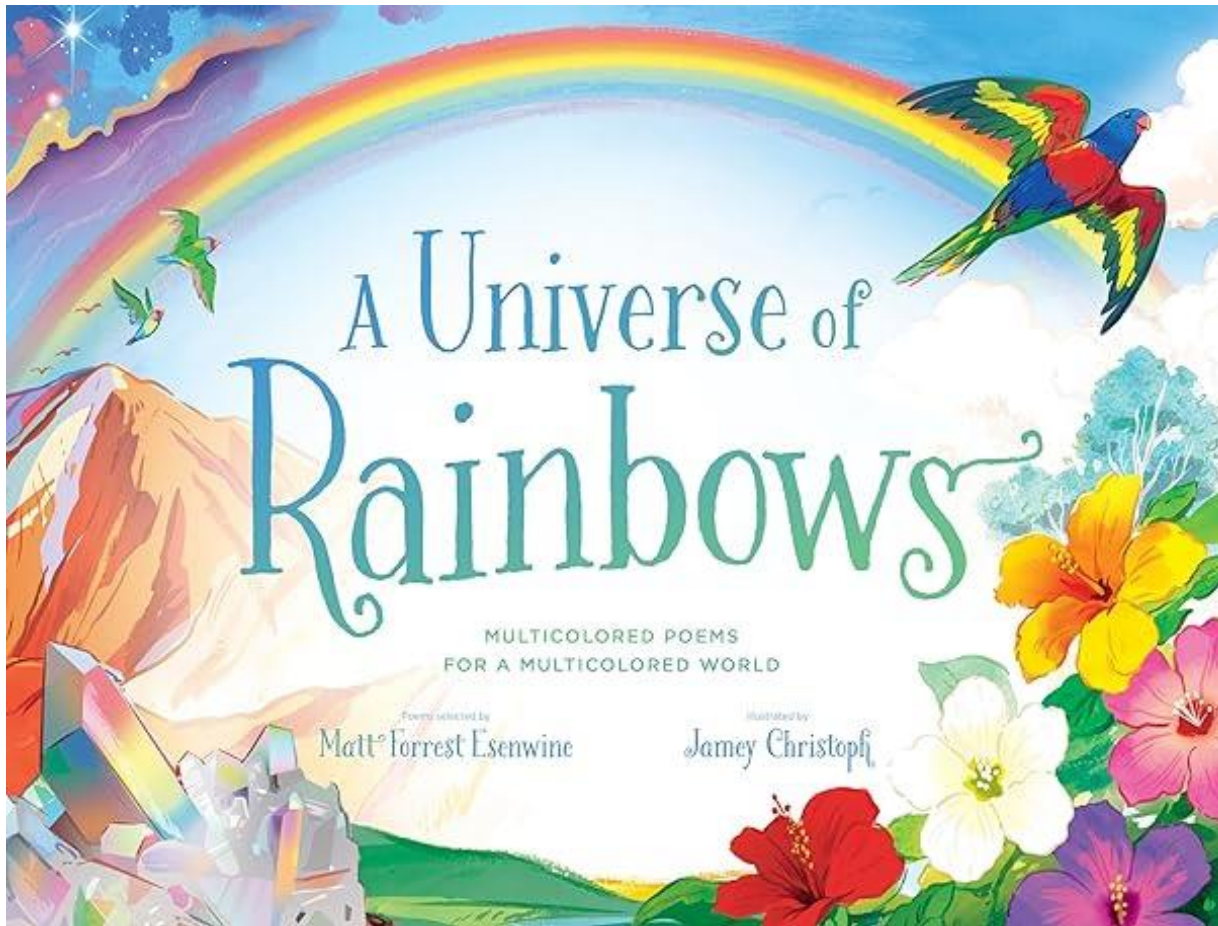
Poetry Anthologies





“I think of poetry as a means to study nature, as is science.”

—Alison Hawthorne Deming



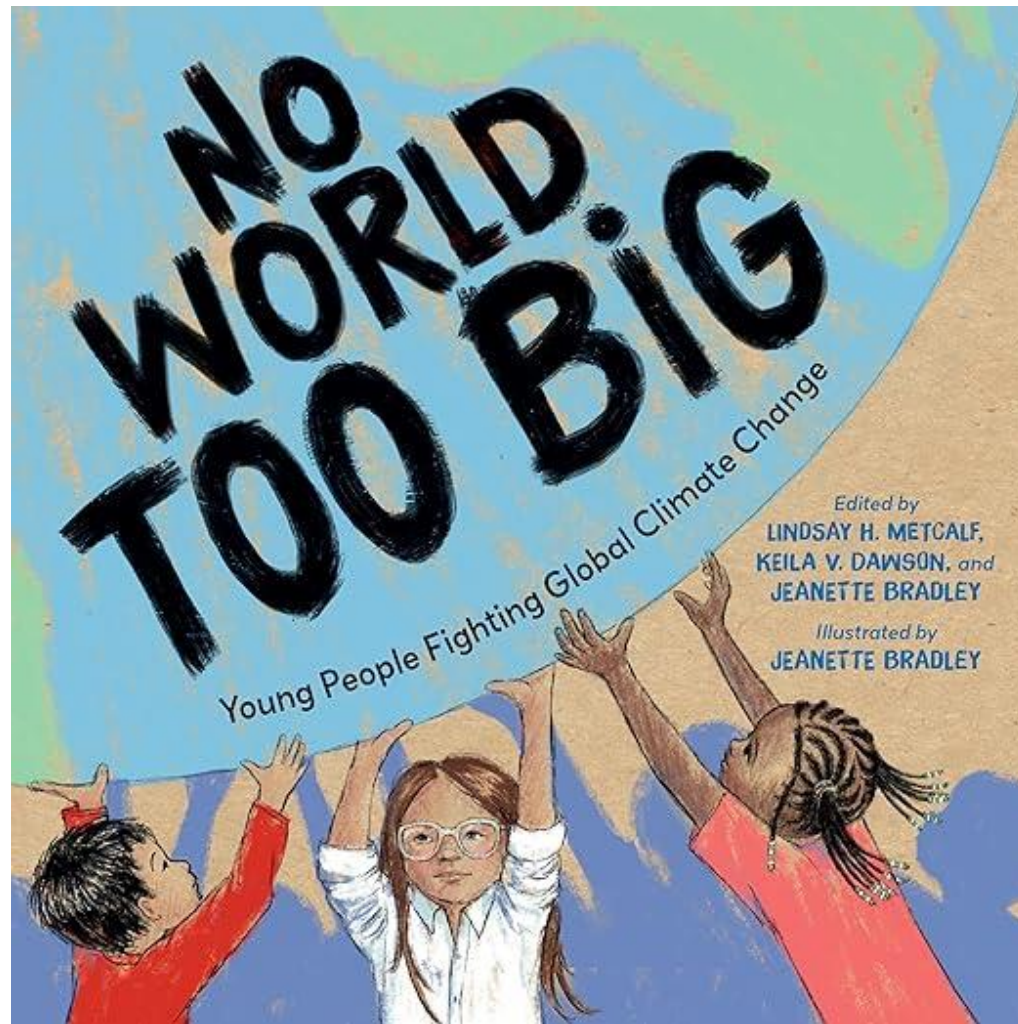
A Universe of Rainbows: Multicolored Poems for a Multicolored World
Edited by Matt Forrest Esenwine, illustrated by Jamey Christoph
Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, April 2025



- Sidebar science
- Light
- Rainbows in geology
- Rainbows in living things
- Rainbows in space
- Variety of poetic forms

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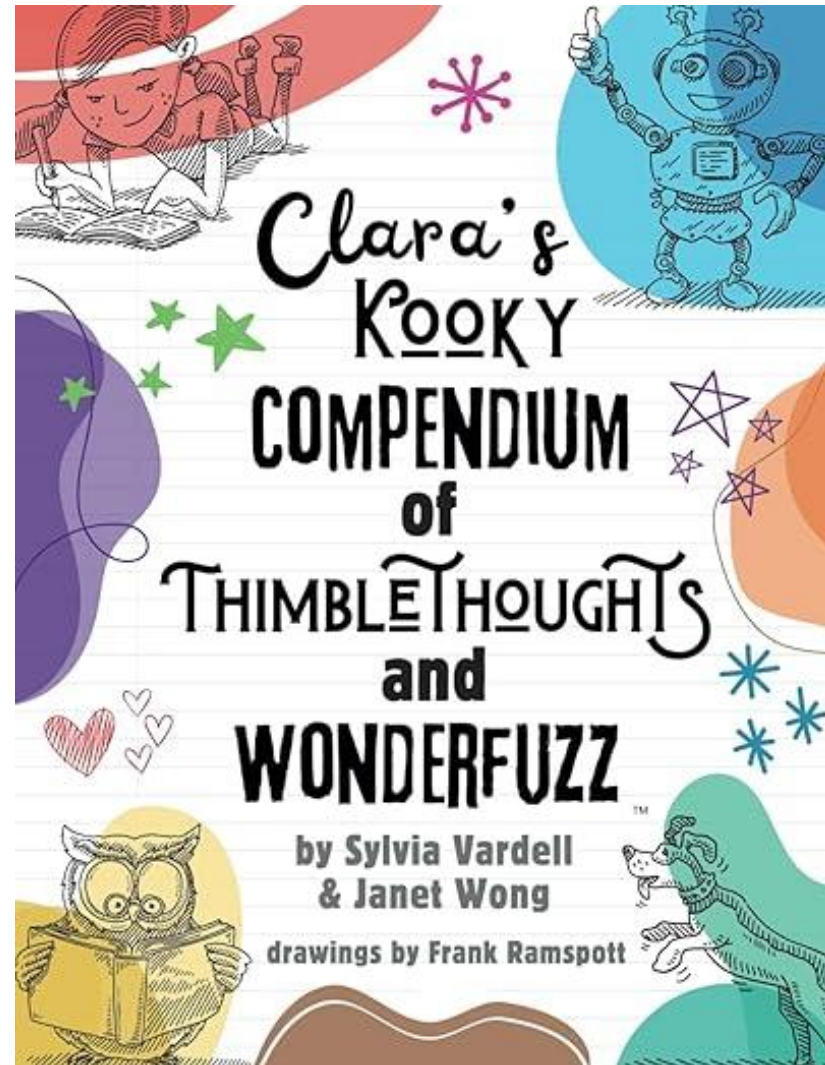
No World Too Big: Young People Fighting Global Climate Change
Edited by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley,
illustrated by Jeanette Bradley
Charlesbridge, 2023

- Climate change
- Biographies
- Sidebars with more information
- Various poetic forms
- Prompts for young readers

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[Teacher
Guide
available
here](#)



Clara's Kooky Compendium of Thimblethoughts and Wonderfuzz
Edited by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong
illustrated by Frank Ramspott
Pomelo Books, 2024

- Celebrates wonder and curiosity
- Jumping off point for inquiry
- Some science-connected poems
- Poetry prompts in back matter
- Humorous

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post
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here](#)

AXOLOTL

by Marcie Flinchum Atkins

Along the murky lakebed floor
scoots a walking carnivore.

His tail propels him through the night –
a tale of eating by moon's light.

His four short legs swish and swim
until a foe chomps on a limb.

But do not worry: for his arm,
he regrows what has been harmed.

His frilly head is graced with gills
and underwater breathing skills.

His suction-powered mouth devours.
It's one of many superpowers.

Clara's Kooky Compendium of Thimblethoughts and Wonderfuzz

Edited by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong

illustrated by Frank Ramspott

Pomelo Books, 2024

- Celebrates wonder
- Jumping off point for inquiry
- Some science-connected poems
- Various poetic forms
- Poetry prompts in back matter
- Humorous

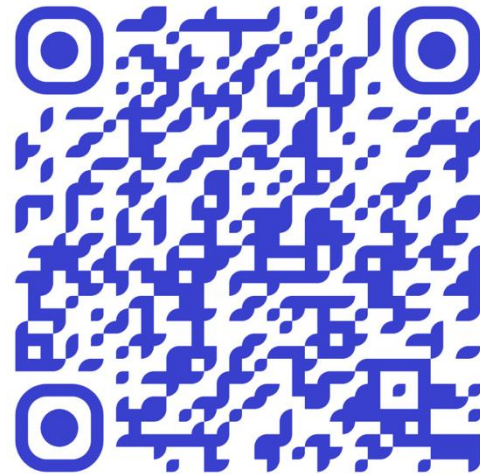
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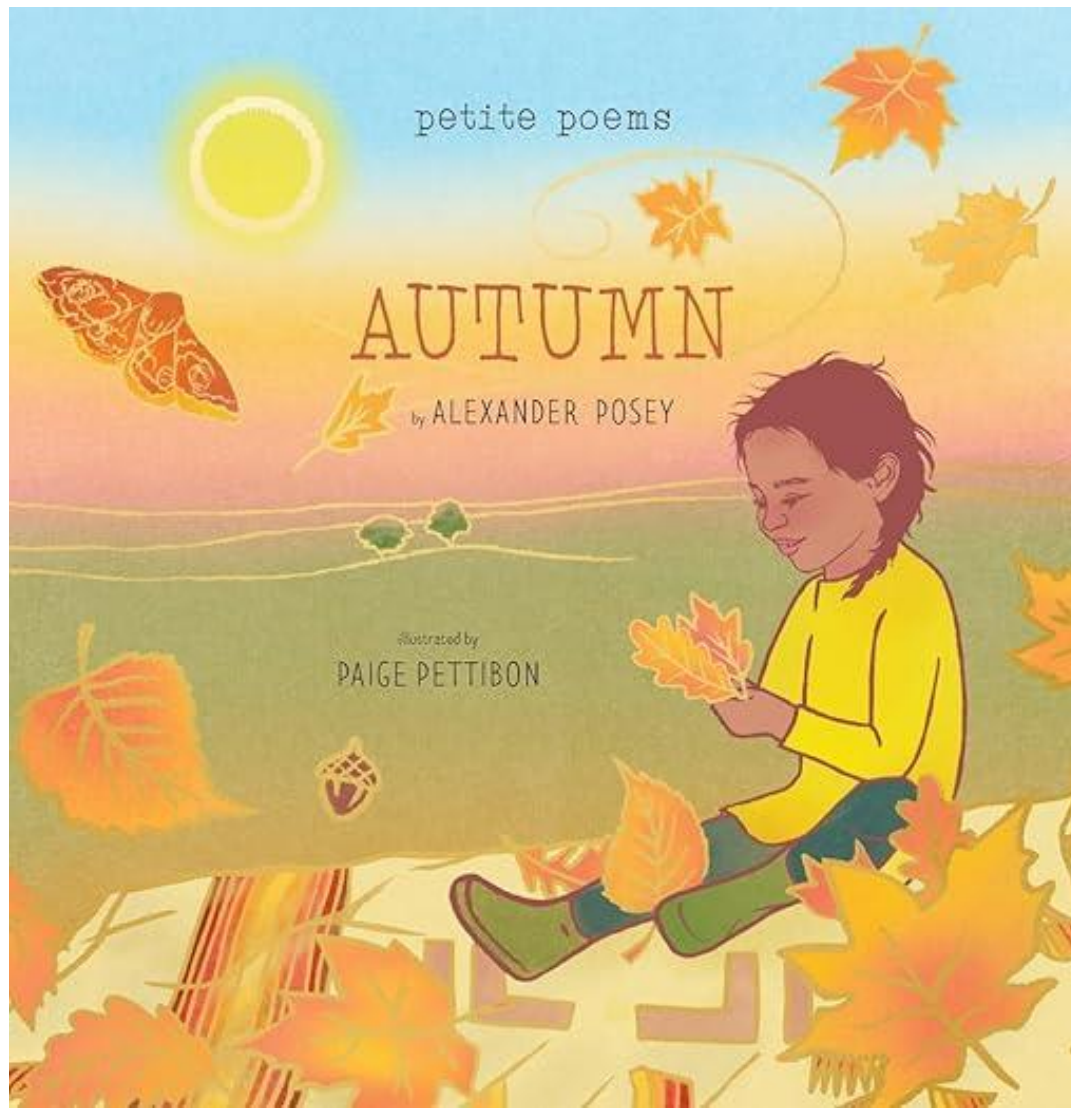
Poems as Picture Books





“Science describes accurately from outside, poetry describes accurately from inside. Science explicates, poetry implicates. Both celebrate what they describe.”

–Ursula K. Le Guin

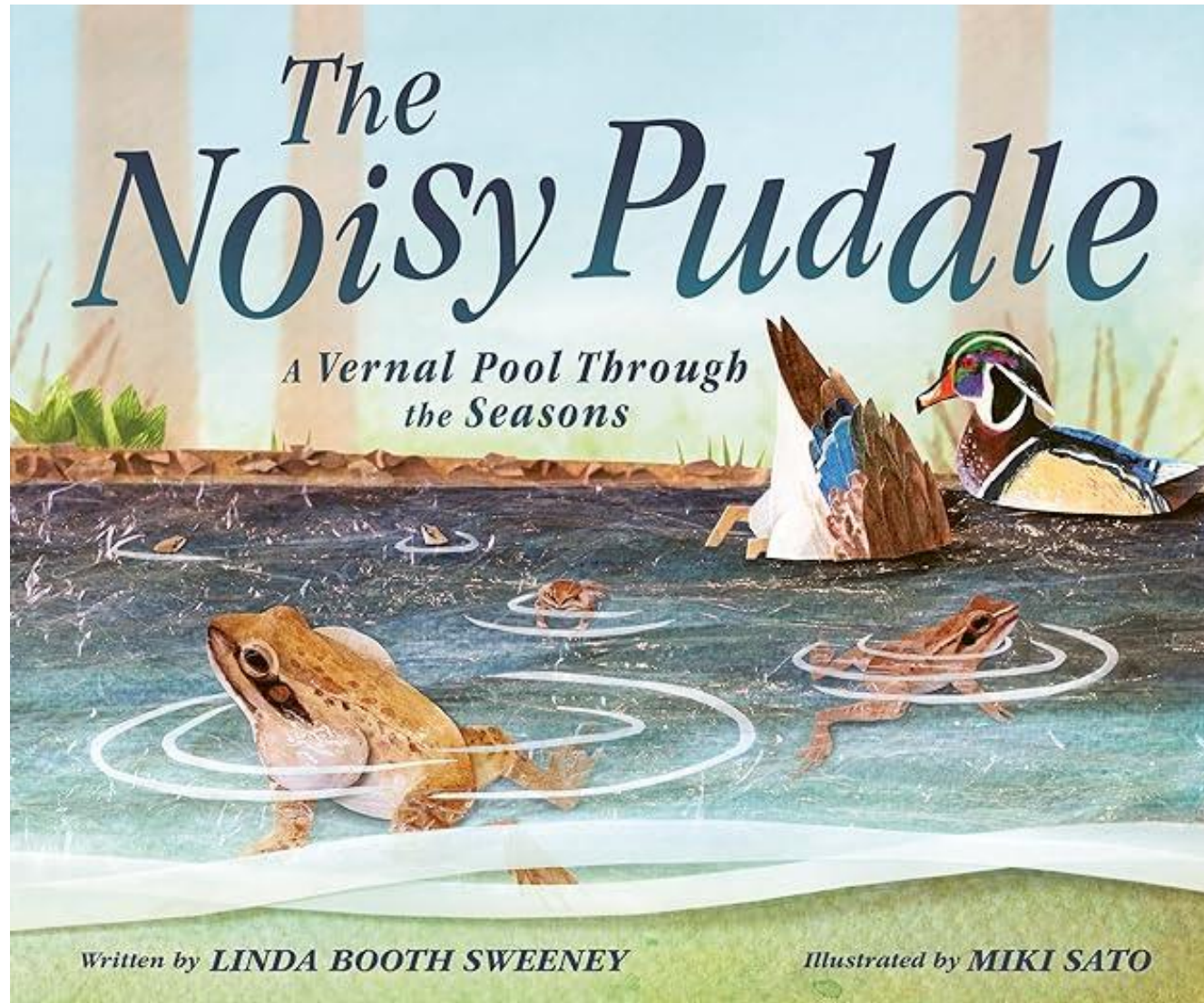


Autumn (Petite Poems)
by Alexander Posey, illustrated by Paige Pettibon
Cameron Kids, 2024

- Seasonal changes
- Imagery
- Includes poetry prompt in back matter

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The Noisy Puddle: A Vernal Pool Through the Seasons
by Linda Booth Sweeney, illustrated by Miki Sato
Owl Kids, 2024

- Back matter
- Rhyming
- Repetition
- Assonance
- Vivid verbs
- Alliteration
- Consonance
- Onomatopoeia

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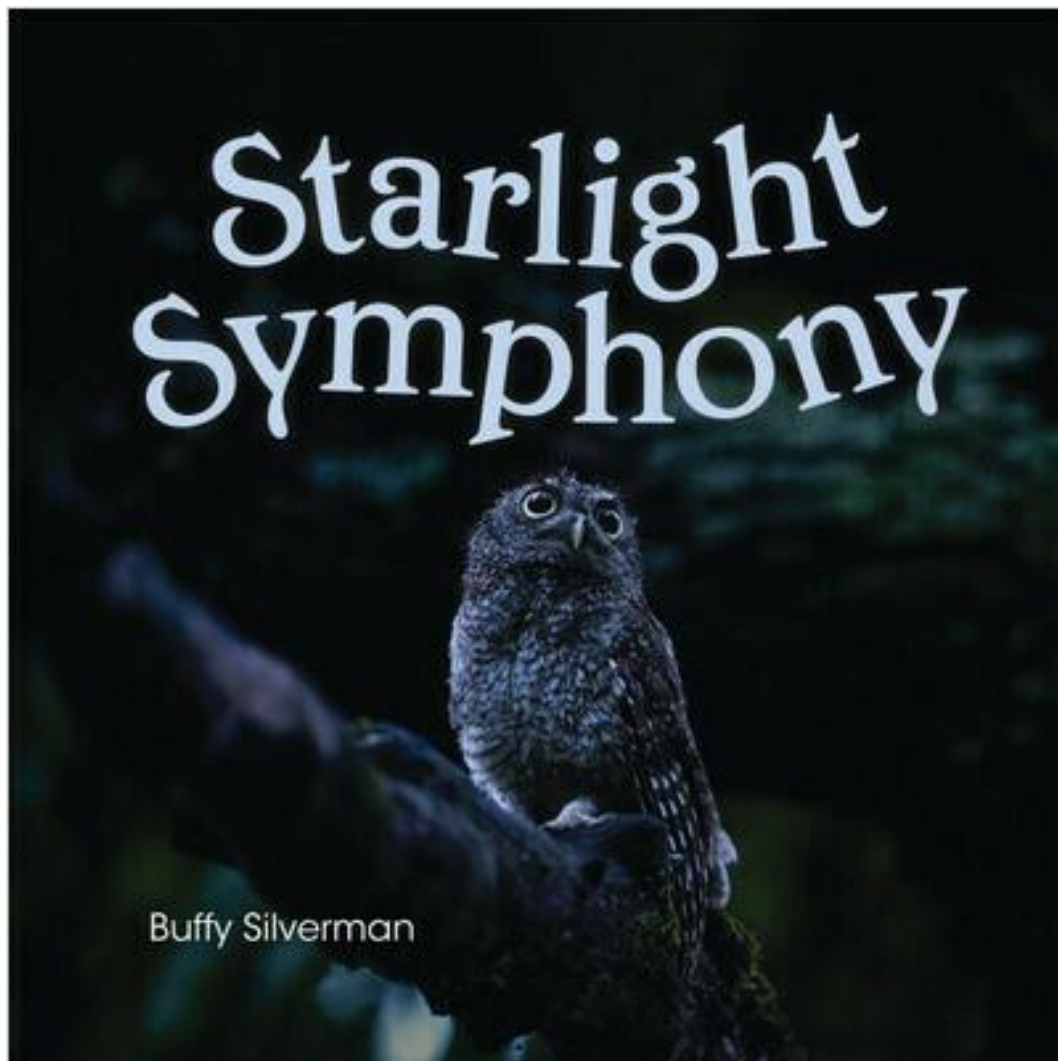
Wind is a Dance
by Debra Kempf Shumaker, illustrated by Josee Bisallion
Kids Can Press, 2024

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- Metaphor
- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Consonance
- Vivid verbs
- Imagery
- Science sidebars
- Extensive back matter

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Starlight Symphony
by Buffy Silverman
Millbrook Press, 2024

Also Recommended:

On a Gold-Blooming Day

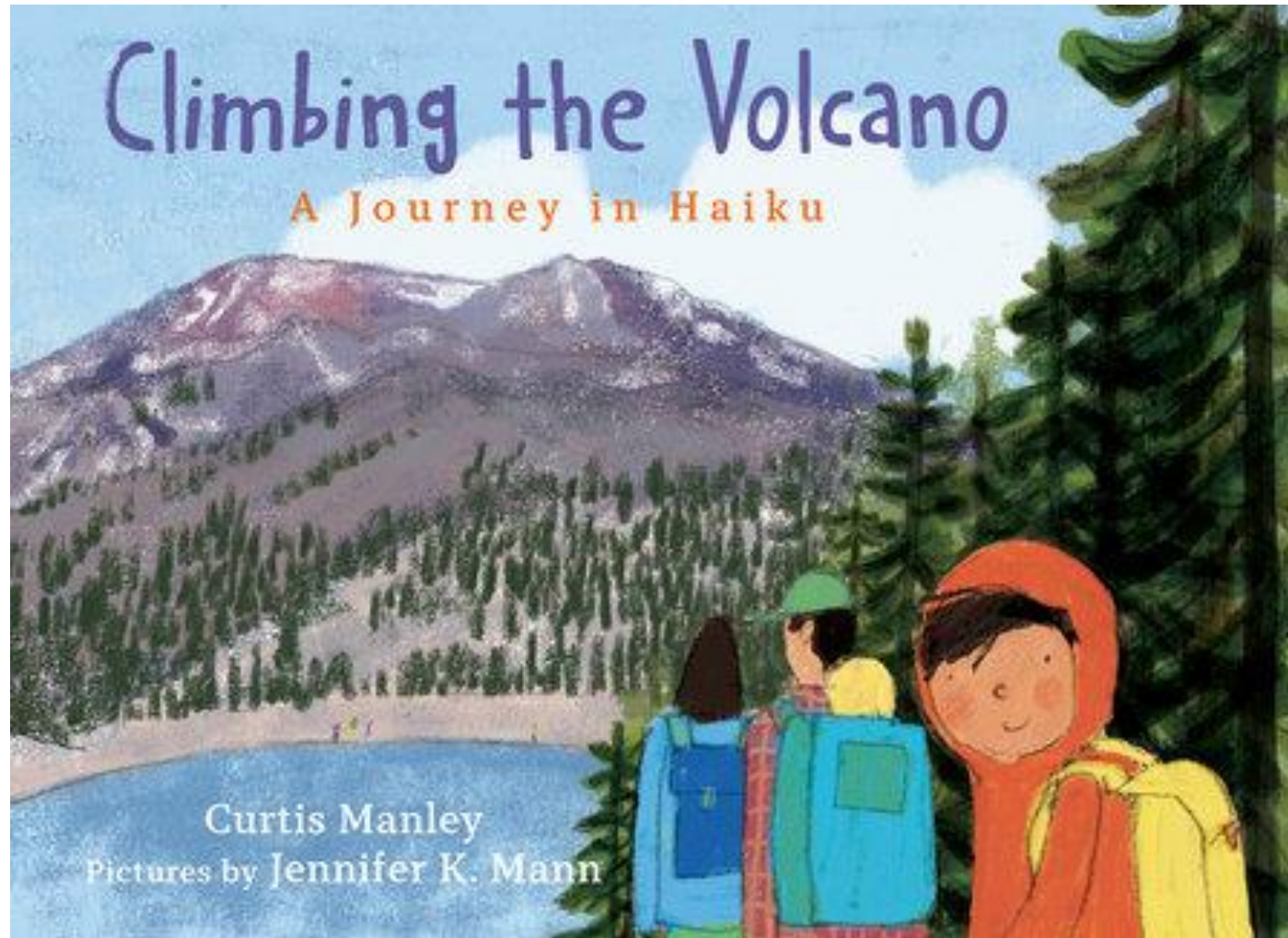
On a Flake-Flying Day

On a Snow-Melting Day

- Rhyming
- Onomatopoeia
- Figurative language
- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Consonance

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Climbing the Volcano: A Journey in Haiku
by Curtis Manley, illustrated by Jennifer K. Mann
Neal Porter Books, 2024

- Haiku
- Narrative Poetry
- Vivid verbs
- Personification
- Alliteration
- Imagery
- Back matter with science and hiking information

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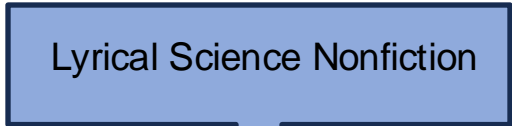
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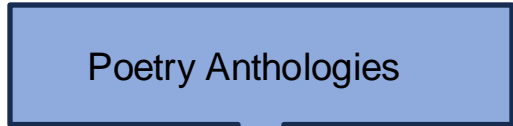


Writer – Poet

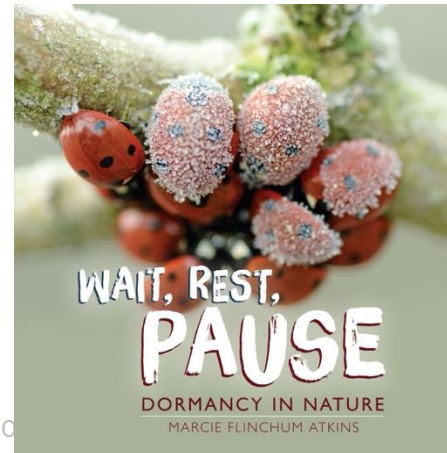
K-6 Public School Librarian
Former Elementary Classroom Teacher



Lyrical Science Nonfiction



Poetry Anthologies



When Twilight Comes

by Marcie Flinchum Atkins

Illustrated by Michelle Morin

Chronicle 2026

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