



Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart

Mary Ann Hoberman , Michael Emberley (Illustrator)

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When you learn a poem by heart, it becomes a part of you. You know it in your mind, in your mouth, in your ears, in your whole body. And best of all, you know it forever.

From the creators of the bestselling You Read to Me, I'll Read to You series comes this new collection of poems especially suitable for learning by heart and saying aloud. With personal introductions by former Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman -- as well as her own time-tested tips and tools for memorization and recitation -- and vivid illustrations by Michael Emberley featuring his trademark wit and lively characters, *Forget-Me-Nots* includes more than 120 works from both classic and contemporary poets, from childhood favorites to lesser-known treasures.

This anthology will inspire a love of learning poetry!

Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2012 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780316129473

Author : Mary Ann Hoberman , Michael Emberley (Illustrator)

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Genre : Poetry, Childrens, Picture Books, Nonfiction, Juvenile, Humor, Family

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From Reader Review Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart for online ebook

Madison Cullitan says

This book is full of poetry that students and young children will love. There are different sections that categorize that different topics that are covered in this book. The best thing about this book is that the poems are relatable and children will be able to understand them. There are all different lengths of poems though out this book as well. There are also poems that can be used for different parts of teaching and lessons that will help reach the students in a different way as well. This book is one that I think should be available in an elementary classroom for the students to have access to and have information about during the course of the year.

Dolly says

This is an entertaining collection of poems that were selected for the purpose of memorizing them. The rhythm, rhyme, and simplicity of the poems are sure to attract young children, and there are more difficult poems included at the end. Different themes are also presented, which can be helpful if teaching about a particular topic.

I can see this best used in the classroom, as a permanent part of the teacher's library. For us, it took us so long to read all of the poems, we didn't even try to memorize any of them, although our oldest expressed an interest in doing so.

We enjoyed the poems and illustrations and I loved the inclusion of poetry from different stories. I even added a few of those books to our to-read list.

Eileen Espuma says

This poem book, is filled with wonderful short, long, and many more poems that will make the reader want to read more. The book has sections for the poems by the emotion and seasons. Each poem are created by different authors. There are some illustrated that goes along with the poems and make more visual to the poems. Children will like this book because all the good poems that needs to be read in a tone to have a good poem. Grab the book and child and go on an adventures journey with these awesome poems.

Christine says

Suggested Grade Levels: K-3rd grade.

Genre: Anthology of Poems

Themes: Just For Fun Poems-Poems You Can Learn By Heart

This is the book to get young readers excited about poetry. This anthology of kid friendly poems is from the creators of the bestselling “You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You” series. It is a collection of poems that can be learned by heart or said aloud. Many of the poems are short, silly, rhyme or have a rhythm that young readers can easily pick up on, making it a great book for young readers. The collection features many timeless classic poets from Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson to newer favorites like Shel Silverstein and Judith Viorst. The poems are arranged by common topics that young readers can relate to such as weather and seasons and delicious dishes.

The illustrations were done in pencils, watercolor and pastel. Michael Emberley embeds his trademark characters throughout the book. On each page there is a new illustration that matches the poem on the page. The tone of the illustrations match the poems, as well. Silly and imaginative poems have funny illustrations with unusual events. Thought provoking and somber poems have still and serious illustrations. The illustrations help the young readers understand the new genre of poetry by adding a visual on each page.

This book would be a nice selection in teaching primary children how to read poetry. Many of the poems in this book are short and have a very definable rhythm or beat to them. Having the book projected on a document camera would allow the teacher and students to follow along in choral reading to practice reading with the rhythm to the poems. Students could work in pairs to practice a poem of their choice and read it to the class with the correct rhythm and voice.

Barb Keister says

Anthology of poetry selected with memorization in mind. Variety of contemporary and classic poets as well as a range of length from couplets to narrative. Nice resource for performance poetry and I wish I had it for Poem-In-Your-Pocket Day! My students always loved Hoberman's I'll Read to You, You'll Read to Me series and this anthology will be a nice addition to that collection. The author also includes some helpful suggestions for memorizing poetry at the end of the book.

Erica Massarelli says

The winner of the Children's Poet Laureate for 2008-2010, author Mary Ann Hoberman's Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart is an anthology of poems for the whole family to share. These poems, both new and old, were selected because they are easy to memorize. The author even categorized them by giving a tip of how to remember those particular poems. This clever way of organizing the book makes it enjoyable and practical.

The poems that were selected are well-chosen. They have great rhyme and rhythm. They also vary in topic, making this a collection that everyone can enjoy. Both teachers and parents alike can use this book. Whether you are choosing poems to teach a certain poetic style or reading them for fun, it is sure to be a well-loved book.

The illustrations that accompany the poems are so fun. They are whimsical and colorful, adding to the overall appearance of the anthology.

Cheryl says

Kinda awkward that Hoberman is both editor and author of a lot of selections, but oh well.

Star for illustrations that enhance, but don't overwhelm. And they're modern - for example, one character has a iPod and to-go soda cup.

Star for a poem by Langston Hughes that I'd never seen before. In fact, lots of the verses and poems here are new to me. Otoh, it also includes my favorite (Dust of Snow by Frost).

Here's from Hughes':

If-ing

If I had some small change
I'd buy me a mule,
Get on that mule and
Ride like a fool.

...
...

But I ain't got a million,
Fact is, ain't got a dime--
So just by *if*-ing
I have a good time.

Representations from Shakespeare to Shel Silverstein. And I love the section on Poems from Storybooks. But there's no index of authors, only of first lines.

Here's Russell Hoban:

Old Man Ocean, how do you pound

Old Man Ocean, how do you pound
Smooth glass rough, rough stones round?
Time and tide and the wild waves rolling,
Night and the wind and the long grey dawn.

Old Man Ocean, what do you tell,
What do you sing in the empty shell?
Fog and the storm and the long bell tolling,
Bones in the deep and the brave men gone.

Great end-of-year gift for a grade-school teacher. Or for Kindergarten graduation.

Haley Overton says

Title: Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart
Author: (selected by) Mary Ann Hoberman

Illustrator: Michael Emberley

Genre: children's literature, children's non-fiction literature

Theme(s): poetry

Opening line/sentence:

A Poem for the Reader

You're on an adventure

About to start,

You're going to learn

Some poems by heart!

Brief Book Summary: This book is a collection of poems that are intended to be able to be read and learned by heart. It also includes some tips and tools for children to memorize and recite poems.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

Name of Source: Kirkus Reviews

Link to Source: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Short blurb from the review: Emberley's vivid characters make the space surrounding the selected works visually appealing to younger readers, the marriage of word and image here is not always a happy one.

Moreover, the grouping of poems throughout—sometimes by form, others by content—seems arbitrary, ultimately making the collections' most memorable aspects Hoberman's introduction and concluding "suggestions for learning poetry by heart."

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

Name of Source: CLCD

Link to Source: <http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.librarie...>

Short blurb from the review: Created using pencil, watercolors, and pastels, Emberley's appealing illustrations brighten every page of this large-format book. A handsome anthology of poems that children can learn by heart. Grades 3-5.

Response to Two Professional Reviews: I definitely agree with both reviews as they praise the illustrations in this book and talk about how it is very visually appealing. Both reviews talk about how the poems included are easy for children to memorize, which is the point of the book. I agree with the Kirkus review that some of the poems could be considered very arbitrary, however I think this is still a good book for young readers. I also liked how the review from CLCD includes what grade levels they think this book would be appropriate before and I would have to agree that grades 3-5 would probably be best.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: I really loved the illustrations and colors in this book. I think they are very bright and will engage readers. The imagery feels very child-like so I think it is appropriate for this type of book. I like how the book is organized and split up into sections and has a table of contents based upon the topics of each poem.

Consideration of Instructional Application: As a teacher I think I would use this book as a mentor text in order to have my students write their own poems. I think this book could provide a lot of inspiration and a lot of ideas when it comes to writing poetry. I think this would be a great resource to have in the classroom for students, maybe even if they find themselves stuck while writing a poem, this could be something for them to look to for help.

Betsy says

I have a soft spot for the Lobel/Prelutsky The Random House Book of Poetry for Children and no book will top that in my mind. Still, this book is charming and much more colorful/up to date in its illustrations. It doesn't have as many poems, but the collection is solid and well organized. I'm inclined to give it a 4 star

rating.

BUT

the proof is in the pudding, as they say. My three children (ages 5, 5, and 6) LOVE this book. My 6-year-old has taken it to bed with her nightly while we've had it from the library, has picked out her favorites, and rereads them or quotes them all the time.

SO, that definitely bumps this up in my opinion to a 5*. Especially since this isn't a book of gimmicky princess poems; there are some great ones in this mix.

(updated 7/20/13 to include more shelves; orig read in sept 2012)

Nicole Doerr says

This is a new collection of poems from new and old poets. This book is intended for older children and young adults, but can be loved by the whole family. This book has many whimsical poems through out it. It is split into sections with tips to help you remember and memorize each of them. The tips are great, helpful and well thought out. The illustrations are silly with a faded blended look of color. It makes them look dreamlike and great for drawing the readers in. Overall these poems are wonderful and well worth the time to memorize them. They are ones that everyone should know. This book could be used in a lesson plan to show examples of rhymes and repetition.

Jim Erekson says

This is a difficult review (and it's going to be a long post). What I like most about this anthology is the wide variety and deep volume of poetry. We need more 'catalogs' of poems like this. Why do I like this kind of poetry book? Because my own experience and my experiences with kids teaches me that the process for selecting poems to learn and recite is as follows:

First, *want* a poem,
Which is hard today.

Second, go hunting
In a junkyard of poems,
Looking for one
That doesn't belong there.

Third, do what you do
with that kind of find.

Hoberman starts with an interesting question, but gives a too-simple answer: What makes a poem memorable? She breaks it into 'easy to remember' and 'worth remembering' and assumes that these qualities live in the poem and not in the reader. This is a semiotic mistake on her part. My experience with poetry is that I have to browse and browse and reject dozens before I find one that 'sticks'--this seems to be more about me than about the poems.

So the starting point is to believe that you need poems to have with you all the time. Nancy Willard said that you have to want poems to carry around with you wherever you go, because you like the feeling of being able to 'pull it out of your pocket or bag' at a moment's notice. As Kenneth Burke wrote, poetry is equipment for living. Poetry has nothing like this place in today's popular media or education, the way it did a hundred years ago.

BUT, instead of being a throwback to a bygone age, poetry is something powerful we have *learned to ignore*. Most of the current generation of adults probably hates poetry because of New Critic teachers who told us what the poems meant and berated us when we offered our own interpretations. Also, I was exposed to only a narrow set of poets. I never liked the serious issues poets who wrote of death and love and god--usually canon poets; and I never liked the silly poets like Silverstein and Prelutsky. In sum, these were all I ever got of poetry as a child or teen. This means I had mostly teachers who did not understand or care for poetry. Get braced for more crappy authoritarian teaching in guise of 'close reading' (demanded by the Common Core State Standards), and even less poetry available as classroom libraries are 'adjusted' to meet the required ratios of informational text!

This book is well designed. As others have noted, the generous white space encourages browsing, which is necessary. The illustrations do not provide too much of an interpretation for the poems, but in general I don't like to see poems illustrated at all unless originally written that way. Also, the topical organization is unnecessary. I rarely seek out poems because of what they're about, and I'm suspicious of topic headings as a way of finding poems because of what they suggest about how to read poems.

I might have liked this book little better than the Kennedy family collections that came out a few years ago, because of the well done design and illustration--Saho Fujii deserves a title credit for her design. But I didn't really like that Hoberman included thirteen of her own poems. Granted, she is one of *the* children's poets of our time, but it would have been better form if someone else had done the collecting. Caroline Kennedy's collecting was probably better, but the illustration in this book was handled better.

Brittany says

Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart is the winner of the 2008-2010 Children's Poet Laureate. This anthology is great for children just getting into the realm of reading. These poems are designed to be easily remembered so children can read along with the adult reading to them. The anthology has is divided into different themes or topics for readers to choose from. Some of the poems are short, while others are longer. Children are sure to love these fun poems!

Bernadette says

Forget-Me-Nots Poems to Learn By Heart (2012) is an anthology of poems selected by Mary Ann Hoberman (Children's Poet Laureate, 2008-1010) with accompanying illustrations by Michael Emberley. Hoberman encourages her readers to memorize some of these poems by heart because as she explains, "the rhythm of the heart is similar to the rhythm of poetry." Targeted toward PreK-2 grade students, Forget-Me-Nots Poems has a little something for everyone. The collection showcases a wide range of poetry from Naomi Shihab Nye's, "Messages from Everywhere," to "April Rain Song" by Langston Hughes. I was delighted to come across this collection of poems and think your students will enjoy it too!

Hope McCabe says

1. Awards: None
 2. Preschool—3rd grade
 3. This set of poems was created especially for the purpose of being able to remember them. They are “forget-me-not” poems that are well-suited for saying aloud. This collection has both classic and contemporary poetry.
 4. These poems are just heartwarming for any age. The illustrations make a lovely accompaniment. This poetry will inspire children to read and love them.
 5. In the classroom:
Children can create their own “Forget-Me-Not” poem.
Children can choose their favorite poem and either choose a line to write or draw a picture about the poem.
-

Stephanie Watson says

Poetry is such a subjective thing, so it's hard to give a fair review here. I think the collection is nice and broad, but most of these poems weren't ones that I really enjoyed and none stood out to me as ones that I LOVE. As far as the illustrations go - I like the color palette and I agree that the white space is nice, but I'm kind of done with anthologies whose illustrations are goofball cartoons. I think they don't really add anything to the book, and I don't think that's what we should be going for when we're introducing poetry to children. I think anthologies can and should be feasts for both the mind and the eye.
