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# Seeing The Blue Between: Advice And Inspiration For Young Poets



## Synopsis

As an inspiration to new poets everywhere, acclaimed anthologist Paul B. Janeczko gathers letters of advice and sample poems from thirty-two poets renowned around the world. How do you write poetry? It's a question with as many answers as there are poets. Now, in this unprecedented volume, thirty-two internationally renowned poets provide words of wisdom and inspiring examples of their own work for new poets everywhere. Compiled by anthologist extraordinaire Paul B. Janeczko, a brilliant poet in his own right, this outstanding resource offers a fascinating spectrum of advice from those who know best - ranging from "break a few rules" to "read Shakespeare's sonnets in the bathroom" to "revise each poem at least thirty-two times." Not surprisingly, the most frequently made suggestion from these seasoned poets is simply to "read, read, read!" This rich volume - an ideal resource for classroom teachers and a beautiful gift for budding writers of all ages - offers the perfect opportunity to do just that.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With the words of 32 children's poets between the covers, this book serves as a great introduction between children and the world of poetry. Poets such as Jane Yolen, Jack Prelutsky, Lee Bennett Hopkins and others have written a personal letter to children regarding what poetry means to them, as well as how it is incorporated into their personal lives. Followed by this letter is one of their poems. It's like having a real discussion with the poet and then watching him/her perform through their work. My favorite was Anthony Hudgins because his letter mentioned that he's always got a book of poems by his bedside to help him unwind from the day, one in his car in case he gets stuck

anywhere, and always one in the bathroom. Hudgins points out that this is better than a novel because with poetry "you can finish your body business and your poetry business" at about the same time...not so with a novel, especially if your memory is not so keen. He follows his letter with the poem "Grandmother's Spit." This poem reminded me of countless older ladies who would spit on their fingers and then swab away some food or dirt from my cheek, for the sake of sanitation. The book closes with a Notes section on the contributors, allowing another glimpse into a poets' life, one that says, "Yes, we are real people with real families and we like real things...and we show it through our poetry."

What a fantastic idea for a poetry book--letters written to kids by poets. It is full of inspiring advice along with from-the-heart poems. The letters and poems can be instant minilessons. I can't wait to share this book with teachers and students.

This anthology is a unique way to get students excited about creating poetry. Each section begins with an open letter from a real, published poet. They write about the writing process, their inspirations, and how they decide what to write about. Then there are one or two poems by that poet. I read aloud one letter/poem each day during our poetry unit. My fifth graders loved it. It was like having a real poet in the room conversing with them. Subsequently, I found my students own poetry was some of the best I have seen my students produce.

This book's subtitle is "Advice and Inspiration for Young Poets," and the book lives up to its promise, and then some. Editor Paul B. Janeczko asked 32 poets for young people to write a letter of advice or inspiration to kids who want to write poetry. The 32 poets did just that, and each included two of his/her poems. This is the kind of book you don't have to read in any order: you just look at a name you know, or a poem whose title intrigues you, and you leap in. Inspiring . . . and not just for children.

Incredible! I felt like the poets were talking to me as I read the book. They inspire both younger and older audiences to be brave and give poetry writing a try. Wonderful selection of poems as well as advice!

I recommend this book to parents, teachers, school librarians, and all who love to read and be inspired by poetry! I think even younger children can understand the poems in this great book. My

favorite is the title poem. We all have found objects in clouds, but have you ever thought about "Seeing the Blue Between"? Kristine O'Connell George does! (Another poetry book to love "Toasting Marshmallows.") Don't be afraid to share this book with all ages of poetry lovers and even those who don't think they enjoy poems!

I loved this book because I felt that it was very inspirational to me as a young writer. The tips suggested in this book I have already used in my English class and I cannot wait for my next poetry assignment to try it out. I thought that having multiple authors contribute not only their advice, but also poems they wrote, offered a new and fresh perspective on poetry and the concept behind it. They wrote in such whimsical ways that the content was very different from any other piece of literature I have read. I loved that it also gave a very personal letter from the author to the reader and young poet. This book truly inspires to write.

For any teen who is interested in poetry, this book is an inspiration. Well-known poets provide personal letters to aspiring poets, along with samples of their work. The appendix lists the poets, with photos and brief bios. The small book has reams of good advice for any poet, teen or adult, so it has value for poets across the board. But teachers, parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents, mentors, can use this book as a marvelous gift for any teen who enjoys dabbling in poetry. Encourage or help the teen to self-publish his or her works.

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