

kids. Add to larger poetry collections.—*Erica Ruscio, Madison Public Library, WI*

My First Book of Haiku Poems: a Picture, a Poem and a Dream; Classic Poems by Japanese Haiku Masters. tr. from Japanese by Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen. illus. by Tracy Gallup. 48p. Tuttle. Mar. 2019. Tr ISBN 9784805315156. **BL**

K-Gr 4—This book introduces children to haiku poetry through 20 classic works by historical haiku masters including Issa, Shiki, Gomei, and others. Composed of 17 syllables and three lines, these short but powerful poems speak of our connection to the natural world. Ramirez-Christensen, a professor of Japanese literature at the University of Michigan, has chosen and translated the poems of these great haiku masters and offers the text in both English and Japanese. Each poem is paired with a stunning original painting that reflects the strength and beauty of the words, opening the door to the world of imagination. Illustrator Gallup's superb artwork vividly captures the nature of the poet's meaning. Along with the crisp and contemplative translations, the text also includes questions about both the words and illustrations to stimulate keen observation and discussion. Although the book's main demographic is children, it offers many ideas and suggestions for parents and teachers on ways to read, understand, and share the tradition and expressive meaning of haiku poetry. The book also includes a textless illustration to encourage would-be poets to write their own haiku. The final pages of the book feature the history of haiku and short bios of the master poets. **VERDICT** Well-constructed and thoughtful, this collection is a recommended title. Teachers and librarians could pair with other recent titles featuring haiku poetry such as *Hi, Koo!* by John Muth, *Guyku* by Bob Raczka, and *Won Ton* by Lee Waidlaw.—*Carole Phillips, Greenacres Elementary School, Scarsdale, NY*

REID, Christopher. Old Toffer's Book of Consequential Dogs. illus. by Elliot Elam. 64p. Faber & Faber. May 2019. Tr ISBN 9780571334094.

K-Gr 3—Reid, an award-winning British poet who has written books for both adults and children, was Poetry Editor at Faber & Faber from 1991–1999 and winner of the Signal Award in 2000 for *All Sorts*, his children's book of verse. He has written *Old Toffer's Book of Consequential Dogs* as a companion volume to *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* at the invitation of the Estate of the late T.S. Eliot who created the book's title, and then never had a chance to write the poems himself. Reid admits, in his first poem, that he is “trying to imitate the style/Of T.S.E., who thought it fun/To faze and flummox everyone/With far-fetched and old-fangled words.” In the 21 poems that follow, Reid provides an enjoy-

able and intriguing introduction to a variety of dog species, singling each of them out for the distinctive inbred traits and characteristics that their owners find most appealing (e.g., “Flo: the Philosophical Foxhound;” “Molly: A Dog of the Night;” and “Frazzlesprat, a dog who wanted to be a cat.”) **VERDICT** Cleverly worded and presented, this collection pairs beautifully with Eliot's famous book of feline poetry and offers an enjoyable reading/listening treat for many ages.—*Susan Scheps, formerly at Shaker Public Library, OH*

ROSSETTI, Christina. Blooming Beneath the Sun. illus. by Ashley Bryan. 40p. S. & S./Atheneum. Apr. 2019. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781534440920.

K-Gr 4—Bryan's vibrant artwork brings to life a collection of classic Rossetti poems that are sure to delight and interest poetry and art fans alike. Bryan's signature collage style is bright and detailed, and works to highlight the poems. The selected poems are accessible to young readers and are reminiscent of nursery rhymes with their easy-to-identify rhythm and rhyme schemes. The subject matter is also familiar, covering dreams, the natural world, and family. Children will be surprised to find that the poetry was written in the 1800s. The detail and careful execution in the cut-paper art are impressive. Young readers will likely find inspiration from both the poetry and the artwork. **VERDICT** Bryan's lively and colorful artwork makes Rossetti's poetry approachable and enjoyable for all ages.—*Ellen Conlin, Naperville Public Library, IL*

SALAS, Laura Purdie. In the Middle of the Night: Poems from a Wide-Awake House. illus. by Angela Matteson. 32p. Wordsong. Mar. 2019. Tr \$17.95. ISBN 9781620916308.

K-Gr 4—When a little girl drifts off to sleep in her bed, all of her toys come alive to play. From a capless marker to a comb, the toothpaste and the toilet, even items outside her house take advantage of the nighttime experience. Each poem addresses a different item's adventure and the poems range in style: rhyming, free verse, acrostic, two-voice poems, concrete poems, and more. Matteson's whimsical illustrations channel the playful tone of the author's words. The artist utilizes brushstrokes and movement lines to emphasize the playful nature of each character while Salas explores emotions, reactions, and inner thoughts of seemingly everyday items. Children can enjoy this title on their own, but it also can be used to illustrate poetic devices and styles. **VERDICT** This title is highly recommended for elementary libraries.—*Lia Carruthers, Gill St. Bernard's School, Gladstone, NJ*

SALAS, Laura Purdie. Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons. illus. by Mercè López. 32p. further reading. Lerner/Millbrook. Apr. 2019.

Tr \$19.99. ISBN 9781512498097.

Gr 1-4—A sleek bird kite flown by a child in springtime kicks off this poetic collection of seasonal objects, animals, and activities. Six poems per season invite audience observation and enjoyment. First-time readers may not realize that each haiku is also a riddle with a list of answers found at the end of the book. Only in her concluding author's note does Salas describe the structure she calls “riddle-ku.” Readers are meant to guess the identity of the non-human narrator in each poem. She also notes that the non-human voices make these “mask poems.” Simple instructions then encourage readers to compose their own riddle-ku. The expansive acrylic scenes featuring children, animals and/or objects offer visual cues about the narrators. For instance, the leaves talk as a child happily bounces in a pile of them. Salas often sets a playful tone and is adept with language. Her diction and syntax are simple and fun. Paired with other seasonal materials, this book offers ample discussion and teaching opportunities with individual readers or groups. **VERDICT** This well-crafted work contains versatile possibilities for classrooms and libraries.—*Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston*

SINGER, Marilyn. I'm the Big One Now!: Poems about Growing Up. illus. by Jana Christy. 32p. Wordsong. Mar. 2019. Tr \$16.95. ISBN 9781629791692.

PreS-Gr 1—A simple yet delightful collection of poems from Singer. The collection features 21 poems highlighting the rights of passage which take us from “little kid” to “big.” While not every poem is universal, the collection as a whole has more than enough for most. Even if readers don't ever have a first piano or ballet recital, most are going to lose their baby teeth and learn to tie their shoes. Singer turns the spotlight on challenges that may seem mundane to grown-ups but are incredibly meaningful: learning left from right, taking a first ride on the bus alone, or figuring out what to do around unfamiliar people. The individual poems are short and very approachable; it's clear Singer kept her audience in mind while penning each one. Teachers and caregivers will appreciate the ability to pick up and set aside the book at will, reading only one or two poems or the entire collection in one go. The illustrations, while perhaps not exceptional, are very in-tune with the offering. Soft lines and smudged shapes help to steer the interest level, and the diverse cast is particularly notable. When adults appear in the pages, they are equally diverse and always play a supporting role. **VERDICT** This encouraging, kid-centric collection of poems is a fun and approachable homage to iconic rights of passage. A general purchase.—*Taylor Worley, Springfield Public Library, OR*