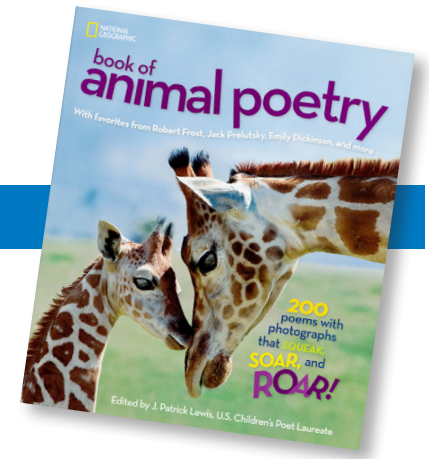


# Book of Animal Poetry



## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Animals, Habitats

**Book Brief:** Two hundred classic and contemporary poems, along with stunning pictures, gives readers insights into the world of animals large and small.

**Author:**  
Edited by  
J. Patrick Lewis



### TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, make connections:** Which animal is your favorite? Do you think that animal has a poem in the book? Look at the table of contents

and think about into which category your animal would fall.

**While reading, notice structure:** Notice that some poems rhyme while others do not. Some have

verses or stanzas and some do not. Which surprises you the most?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ In today's poem, what animal was featured?
- ◆ What kind of poem was it?
- ◆ Why did the editor put the poem in this category?
- ◆ Did the poem add to your knowledge of that animal?
- ◆ How does the "information" in a poem differ from the information in a story?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### WHIMSICAL WILDLIFE

Zebras have beautiful stripes (p. 121). Design your own animal using a whimsical pattern. Pick your favorite animal and draw the outline on white paper. Divide your animal into different sections. Create unique designs in each until the whole outline is filled in. Cut out animal and mount on darker paper so the design stands out.



### PURPLE COW

Ingredients: vanilla ice cream or frozen yogurt, grape juice



Read "Purple Cow" by Gelett Burgess (p. 20). Follow the poem with a refreshing "purple cow" treat!

Scoop 8 ounces of vanilla ice cream in a glass. Pour 12 ounces of cold grape juice over the ice cream. Stir with a spoon. Add a straw and enjoy!

### HAIKU BY YOU

Sit outside for about 15 minutes and observe the animals around you. Do you see bugs? Squirrels? Birds? Choose an animal to write about in a haiku (p. 119). Describe your animal in 3 lines of 5 syllables, 7 syllables, and 5 syllables.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER POETRY BOOKS ABOUT ANIMALS

- Animal Poems*, Valerie Worth (2007)
- Around the World on Eighty Legs: Animal Poetry*, Amy Gibson (2011)
- Step Gently Out*, Helen Frost (2012)

