

# Firefly July

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Poetry, Seasons, Nature, Weather, Animals

**Book Brief:** This collection of poems moves the reader through the seasons. Each poem deals with an element that makes that particular season special, while the beautiful illustrations take the reader to another time and place.

**Author:** various poets, with poems selected by Paul B. Janeczko, editor

**Illustrator:** Melissa Sweet



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, make connections:** Talk with your child about the pictures in the book. What do you notice? What scenes are familiar? Do any of the pictures bring back memories?

**While reading, pay attention to style:** Poems have many different styles—haiku, couplet, acrostic, to

name a few—and may or may not rhyme. Which kind of poem in this collection surprises you the most?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Which poem did you identify with the most?
- ◆ How did the poems make you feel?
- ◆ Which poem was your favorite? Least favorite? Why?



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### FIREFLY FRUIT SALAD

**Ingredients:** 1 can pineapple chunks (with juice), 1 apple, 1 banana, 1 cup seedless grapes, 1 orange, 1 cup finely chopped cantaloupe

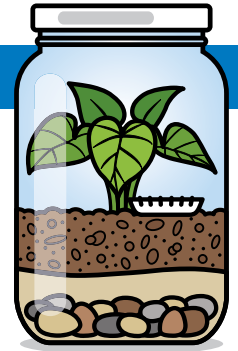
Peel and chop the apple. Slice the banana. Cut grapes into halves. In a large bowl, toss together the pineapple, apple, banana, and grapes. Add the pineapple juice and squeeze juice from the orange. Sprinkle with “fireflies,” the cantaloupe pieces.

### WATER, WATER, IN A BOTTLE

**Materials:** clear jar with lid, small plants, bottle cap full of water, dirt, sand, small rocks

Some seasons of the year are rainier than others. Rain is an important part of the water cycle. Make your own water cycle at home! Put the materials in the jar in this order: rocks, sand, soil, bottle cap, and plants.

Cover with a lid. Place the jar on a sunny window sill for a few days and watch how the water cycle works. Write a poem about what you see!



### FEATURED FAVORITE

Pick your favorite poem from the book. Use scissors, glue, and objects that can be recycled—like old magazines, cereal boxes, paper towel tubes, etc.—to make a collage or sculpture that represents the poem. Be sure to give your work of art a title!

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/seasons/en> to play fun games and learn more about the seasons. Also available in Spanish.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT SEASONAL POETRY

- Hi, Koo! A Year of Seasons*, Jon J. Muth (2014)  
*The Year Comes Round*, Sid Farrar (2014)  
*Guyku: A Year of Haiku for Boys*, Bob Raczka (2010)



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