

# An annotated bibliography of Canadian poetry books written in English for children

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This bibliography attempts to be a comprehensive listing of poetry books written in English in Canada for children between the ages of two and fourteen. It lists 108 books by 82 different poets and editors, and includes hardcover and paperbound trade editions published since 1867. It is concerned exclusively with poetry; books which mix poetry with songs, short stories, anecdotes or puzzles have not been included. Neither have plays written in verse, although I have included both narrative poems and picture books with rhyming texts.

Furthermore, this listing is concerned exclusively with Canadian work. Translations, Canadian editions of foreign books, and books which mix Canadian poets with non-Canadians have been excluded.

There are a growing number of poetry collections being published which have been written by school-children. While these may be of interest to children, I have not included them here because I believe they are aimed primarily at adults. Katie Hemblen's *The night sky/Ciel du nuit* has been included because it was written by a single child-author and not as part of an anthology of work by children. I have also included Fran Newman's *Round slice of moon* because it combines children's poetry and the work of well-known poets in a unique way.

Finally, this bibliography is concerned exclusively with books written for children. Books written for adults, even if they contain some material suitable for children, are not listed. With the exception of Pauline Johnson's *Flint and feather*, which Sheila Egoff describes as having been "appropriated from adult literature" (*Republic of childhood*, 241), the books in this bibliography were intended, first and foremost, for children.

I have adopted the broad grade-level definitions from the annual bibliographies prepared by Mary Rubio and J.R. Sorfleet for *Canadian Children's Literature*. Three levels are indicated: Primary (Preschool to Grade 3), Junior (Grades 4 to 8) and Senior (Grades 9 to 11), but it must be noted that age ranges are necessarily subjective.

The same book is sometimes given wildly different age-or grade-levels by different reviewers. As much as possible, the grade-levels here are based on those given in review sources; in some cases, differences between sources have been "averaged." In seven of the thirteen instances where I was unable to locate a copy of a book, the grade-levels given are taken from the original source.

In spite of the pitfalls, the grade-levels may give a general idea about the suitability of a book for a particular child or group of children. That is why they have been included here.

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University; the children's section of the Atwater Library in Montreal; The Westmount Children's Library — Maria Varvarikos and especially Brooke Clibbon, for all her patience; Fred Boer of the Children's Book Centre in Toronto; and of the Children's Literature Service at the National Library of Canada, Irene Aubrey and Mary Collis, whose kindness and expertise were greatly appreciated.

1. Andrews, Jan. *Fresh fish . . . and chips*. Illus. Linda Donnelly. Toronto: Canadian Women's Educational Press, 1973. [P]. *Presented in rhyming verse with amusing colouring-book-type illustrations, this is a nonsexist story about a mother who goes out to catch fish for her family's dinner.*
2. Aska, Warabe. *Who goes to the park*. Montreal: Tundra, 1984. [P]. *Short free-verse poems and strikingly beautiful illustrations trace the seasons in Toronto's High Park. The book is more notable for its illustrations than for its poetry.*
3. Atwood, Margaret. *Up in the tree*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1978. [P]. *A narrative poem in rhyming verse, this book tells about two children stuck in a tree after their ladder is taken down, and how they return to earth by riding on the back of a bird.*
4. Blakeslee, Mary. *It's tough to be a kid*. Illus. Barb Reid. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Scholastic-TAB, 1983. [J]. *Cartoon-like pencil drawings complement this collection of poems about funny and realistic situations, but some of the poems, like "The vegetarian", may be over the heads of younger readers.*
5. Brand, Dionne. *Earth magic*. Illus. Roy Crosse. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1979. [J]. *Each of these twenty-four poems about life in Trinidad is accompanied by a dark, heavily cross-hatched illustration which might not appeal to the twelve-and-up audience for whom the book is intended, but the poems themselves are strong.*
6. Brooks, Anne Sutherland. *I met some little people*. Illus. G.S. Duff. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1941. [J]. *Although these poems about orchards and country schoolhouses may be too whimsical for modern children, the book may have appeal because of the time period which it evokes.*
7. Burke, Molly. *Tales from Beechy Woods: Fluff's birthday*. Illus. Gerda Neubacher. Burlington, Ontario: Hayes Publishing, 1983. [P]. *This stickily illustrated rhyming narrative might have come from a Disney studio and will no doubt appeal to younger children, but it is not particularly Canadian in flavour — "Horace Hedgehog" must have immigrated from Britain.*
8. Chapman, Evangeline. *Poems for children*. Illus. Carol Chapman. Calgary: Pedlar, 1978. [J]. *Poems about seasons, landscapes and family pets characterize this slim book, which was written for Chapman's own children and illustrated by her daughter at age ten.*
9. Clever, W. Glenn. *Tommy and the ladybug*. Ottawa: Borealis, 1977. [P]. *This is an imaginative ballad about Tantrums Tom, "the worst boy ever to / Have turned a somersault," who shrinks to the size of an insect and doesn't grow again until he has redeemed himself by saving a ladybug-in-distress.*
10. Cook, Lyn. *The magic pony*. Illus. Mary Downe. Cobalt, Ontario: Highway Book Shop, 1981. [P/J]. *There is a musical quality to the language and rhyme scheme of this poem about a child's imaginary pony. The wispy pen and ink drawings and hand-lettered text complement dreamlike phrases like ". . . royal faces/In the clouds/And crowds/Of banners blowing."*
11. \_\_\_\_\_. *Sea Dreams*. Illus. Mary Downe. Hantsport, Nova Scotia: Lancelot Press, 1981. [P/J]. *In this short narrative poem, a child sitting beside a Maritime cove dreams about different types of ships. The line drawings may be more edifying*

- than the text, but the poem finishes with a satisfying image of the youngster watching the water "While sun shines on our fishing fleet/And turns our cove to gold."
12. —. Lyn and Peter Ivans. "**If I were all these. . .**". Toronto: Burns and MacEachern, 1974. [P]. *Each page of this volume describes, in three rhyming lines of handlettered text which is sometimes difficult to read, a different animal and what the narrator might do in its place: e.g. "If I were a weasel/I'd work at my easel/And paint a fat hen. . ."*
  13. Dawe, Tom. **A gommel from bumble bee bight: and other nonsense verse**. Illus. Sylvia Ficken. St. John's Newfoundland: Harry Cuff Publications, 1982. [J]. *Fifty-one limericks set in various Newfoundland locations are humorously illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings in two colours.*
  14. Desbarats, Peter. **The night the city sang**. Illus. Frank Newfeld. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1977. [J/S]. *Three rhyming narratives, set in Montreal, deal with Christmas Eve: an Eskimo child in the Children's Hospital, a mysterious caped stranger who conducts an impromptu symphony, and a young she-devil who escapes from Hades to find out about Christmas.*
  15. De Vries, John. **In my back yard**. Illus. Jeff Wakefield. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Scholastic-TAB, 1975. [P]. *Appealing cartoon-like illustrations complement this story-poem, in which a boy makes a home for his pet frog in Rover's dog house because the frog is not allowed in the house. The last half of the poem is a rhyming list of objects which seem incongruous with the first part of the story.*
  16. Downie, Mary Alice and Barbara Robertson, eds. **The new wind has wings: poems from Canada**. Illus. Elizabeth Cleaver. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1984. [J/S]. *This new, expanded edition of The wind has wings will be welcomed by both children and adults.*
  17. —, eds. **The wind has wings: poems from Canada**. Illus. Elizabeth Cleaver. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1968. [J/S]. *This much-acclaimed collection won the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award in 1971 and brought Elizabeth Cleaver international recognition, but the collection is to be commended, also, for its strong selection of new and old Canadian poems.*
  18. Ellis, Louise. **The alphavegetabet**. Don Mills, Ontario: Collier MacMillan, 1976. [P]. *The illustrations in this rhyming alphabet book are appealing, and each letter of the alphabet represents a different vegetable. The author, who also illustrated the book, has not set herself an easy task, and is to be excused for including 'I' for Ice Cream, 'U' for Urd Bean, and 'X' for X-Rayed Vegetables.*
  19. Fine, Esther. **I'm a child of the city**. Illus. Ann Powell. Toronto: Rhino Books, 1973. [P]. *A spunky heroine narrates this short sometimes-rhyming defence of city life, but it may offend those who find some of the "advantages" she lists unappealing — for example, "I just curse/I can do it in seven/languages. I learned that at school."*
  20. Floyd, Keith. **Sandman's land**. Ed. Alan Shute. Edmonton: Tree Frog Press, 1976. [P]. *This is a fascinating attempt by a psychologist from Alberta to introduce the principles of relaxation therapy into a bedtime poem. The book begins and ends with discussions of the principles of relaxation, suggestions for the poem's use, and documentation of cases where it has lulled children to sleep or had an effect on handicapped children. Whatever its claims to practical value might be, it is a strong, imaginative poem full of images, sensations and word-sequences which should appeal to a wide audience. The poem is not illustrated and is meant to be read aloud.*
  21. Frey, Katherine Stenger. **Children of the north (a story in poetry)**. Illus. Valerie McKee. Cornwall, Ontario: Vesta, 1980. [S]. *The illustrations in this picture-*

book-style volume are ruined by the photocopy-quality of printing, and the book is notable only because it is so poor. The free verse narrative is a stilted, dogmatic diatribe against those "flaccid insurance people/Sacrificing the joy of today for the fatness of tomorrow," who take Eskimo children away from their native region for treatment of life-threatening disorders.

22. Garvin, John W., ed. **Canadian verse for boys and girls**. Toronto: Nelson, 1930. [J/S]. *An early volume of exclusively Canadian poetry, covering such poets as Bliss Carman, Pauline Johnson and Archibald Lampman, this collection includes biographical data and three or four representative poems for each of fifty poets.*
23. George, Chief Dan and Helmut Hirschall. **My heart soars**. Saanichton, B.C.: Hancock House, 1974. [J]. *The grey and white illustrations are somewhat awkwardly placed in this collection, and the effect is heightened by the use of different type faces, but the poetry, which centres on the native experience in Canada, is strong and well-focussed.*
24. Gracie, James M. **Billy the clown**. Illus. Eric Ford. Toronto: Colban, 1976. [P]. "His nose was large and cherry red. . .", "He could walk upon his hands. . .", "The shoes he wore were very big. . .". *The illustrations in this book are amusing, but it describes in verse a very ordinary clown doing an ordinary clown routine.*
25. Grant, Edna Fay. **Walk softly in springtime**. Toronto: Edna Fay Grant, 1972. Not seen.
26. Grawbarger, Josephine. **Golden Valley poems**. Illus. Gordon MacLelland. Windsor, Nova Scotia: Lancelot, 1971. [P]. *In spite of a "home-grown" format and a tendency toward cliché — the grandmother who prefers her grandchildren to kings or queens, the little ballerina described in "Miss Twinkletoes" — this collection contains a few surprisingly fresh and appealing poems.*
27. \_\_\_\_\_. **Valley verses: 49 illustrated fairy tales for children**. Illus. William B. Payne. Toronto: Spiritual Press, 1978. [J]. *This spiral bound book is set up like a calendar, with a hole in each page so it can be hung on the wall, but the illustrations are awkward and the poems are trite. Each one has the words "The End" printed after it.*
28. Green, John F. **There are trolls**. Illus. Kenneth R. White, 1975. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Scholastic-TAB, 1983. [P]. *This fun, rhyming poem of twenty-five lines, about trolls and where to find them, is appealing for its large size and large type, and for its funny black-and-white pictures of trolls.*
29. Hahn, Sylvia. **Shadow cat**. Moonbeam, Ontario: Penumbra Press, 1983. [J/S]. Not seen.
30. Hall, Pam. **On the edge of the eastern ocean**. Agincourt, Ontario: GLC Publishers, 1982. [J]. *Beautifully produced and illustrated, this long free verse poem tells the story of a young puffin who flees after his home is attacked by a gull, gets stranded on a distant island, and eventually finds his way home again.*
31. Haws, Mary Frances. **Somebody else's children**. Willowdale, Ontario: Haws, 1979. Not seen.
32. Hemblen, Katie. **The night sky/Ciel de nuit**. Illus. Angela Wood. Trans. Danielle Thaler. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 1980. [P]. *This short free verse poem, written in English by a 9-year-old and translated so that each line appears in English and in French on the same page, uses a theatrical metaphor to describe the sunset, and is nicely illustrated in pen-and-ink and tinted in yellow.*
33. Henderson, Gordon. **Sandy Mackenzie, why look so glum? (Rhymes and pictures about our Prime Ministers)**. Illus. Peter Pickersgill. Ottawa: Deneau and Greenberg, 1979. [J]. *A caricature, a hilarious rhyming verse, and a brief biography is given for each prime minister from John A. Macdonald to Joe Clark*

- in this book, which should appeal to adults as well as to children.*
34. Higginson, Shirley. ***Ice cream sneakers***. Illus. Ranni Pilescu. Edmonton: Reidmore Books, 1982. [P/S]. *An imaginative and well-illustrated book of nonsense poems about "what if" (e.g. what if a canary started to snore?) and how to handle awkward situations (e.g. "never, never, never/Swim with an oyster/If the oyster's in a stew"), all in a well-produced book.*
  35. Joe, Rita. ***The Poems of Rita Joe***. Halifax: Abanaki Press, 1978. [J/S]. *These free verse poems, written by a Micmac Indian in an effort to inform children about native life, are interesting for the inclusion of Indian words in the English text, but some of the poems tend to be abstract.*
  36. Johnson, Pauline. ***Flint and feather***. 1917. 1931. 1957. Markham, Ontario: Paper Jacks, 1972. [J/S]. *This volume of poems about Indian life, written by an Indian princess, has become one of the few traditional "classics" in Canadian children's literature. According to Sheila Egoff, it has been "appropriated from adult literature."*
  37. Johnstone, Anne. ***I need you when I need you, dad by myself***. Illus. Irene Crossan. Barrie, Ontario: Printer's Ink, 1978.
  38. \_\_\_\_\_. ***I need you when I need you, mom by myself***. Illus. Irene Crossan. Barrie, Ontario: Printer's Ink, 1979.
  39. \_\_\_\_\_. ***I need you when I need you, teacher by myself***. Illus. Irene Crossan. Barrie, Ontario: Printer's Ink, 1979. [P/J]. *These three slim booklets, each containing about fifteen poems, address the authority figures in a child's world with demands for kindness and understanding. The poems are both overly "psychological" at the child's level, and "preachy" at the adult level, and while the sentiments might be a good outlet for some children, numerous errors in punctuation and grammar, not to mention awkwardness in metre and rhyme, detract from the possible worth of these books.*
  40. Kemp, Grant. ***Jake and the Leprechaun***. Cobalt, Ontario: Highway Bookshop, 1980.
  41. Klaasen, Henry Arden. ***Little Wind the Indian brave, a novelette of youth and love***. Brarriere, B.C.: Klaasen and Foster, 1980. [J/S]. *An overly long ballad with sexist overtones, this slim booklet in which Little Wind goes on many hunts in order to win the hand of "little Laughing Eyes" may not be appropriate for modern children.*
  42. Kouhi, Elizabeth. ***North country spring: a book of verse for children***. Illus. Robert Rickels. Moonbeam, Ontario: Penumbra Press, 1980. [P/J]. *These lyrical free verse poems, which describe spring among northern lakes and woodlands, have a solidly "Canadian" flavour, and while the illustrations might be more striking, the large size and rich quality of the production complement the text.*
  43. Lane, Red. ***The surprise sandwich: poems for children***. Illus. Bill Johnson. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1979. [P]. *These humorous poems follow the routine of a child's day and invite the reader into the text by asking questions like "Do you ever do things like that?" or "What would you do?", but the last section of the book becomes philosophical and even frightening with lines like "Once I saw a woman hate the sky . . ." and "Once I heard a little girl fall dead . . ."*
  44. Layton, Irving. ***A spider danced a cosy jig***. Illus. Miro Malish. Illus. Miro Malish. Ed. Elspeth Cameron. Toronto: Stoddart, 1984. [J]. *The poems in this beautifully illustrated and well-produced book deal with insects and animals in an imaginative and thought-provoking way, and it should appeal to both children and adults.*
  45. Lee, Dennis. ***Alligator pie***. Illus. Frank Newfeld. Toronto: Macmillan, 1977. [P/J]. *A book richly deserving of its popularity, Alligator pie won the Canadian*

- Library Association Book of the Year Award for Children in 1975 and the I.O.D.E. Book Award in 1974. Some of Lee's irresistible poems have been taken from **Wiggle to the laundromat** and are brought to life by the bright, appealing illustrations.*
46. \_\_\_\_\_. **Garbage delight.** Illus. Frank Newfeld. Toronto: Macmillan, 1977. [P]. *In much the same vein as **Alligator pie**, these nonsense poems with their strong rhythms and imaginative word sequences won the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year Award for Children in 1977.*
  47. \_\_\_\_\_. **Jelly belly.** Illus. Juan Wijngaard. Toronto: Macmillan, 1983. *Intended for children slightly older than the readers of **Alligator pie** and **Garbage delight**, this book is equally ingenious and shows a keen sensitivity to the modern child. Schoolyard taunts, patterned around skipping rope songs, may be practical and fun enough to work themselves into the folklore of the next generation (e.g. "Eh, mon/Cool, mon - /You a silly/fool, mon").*
  48. \_\_\_\_\_. **Lizzy's lion.** Illus. Marie-Louise Gay. Toronto: Stoddart, 1984. [P]. *Bright coloured illustrations accompany this rhyming narrative about how a little girl and her pet lion deal efficiently with the robber who has climbed through her bedroom window.*
  49. \_\_\_\_\_. **Nicholas Knock and other people.** Illus. Frank Newfeld. Toronto: Macmillan, 1974. [J]. *While the first part of this collection calls to mind **Alligator pie**, it is especially worthy of notice for the final eight-part "ballad" about Nicholas Knock's devotion to the silver honkabeest — the story is both strongly written and hauntingly memorable, with a philosophical message that invites re-reading.*
  50. \_\_\_\_\_. **Wiggle to the laundromat.** Illus. Charlie Pachter. Don Mills, Ontario: New Press, 1970. [P]. *The fourteen rhymes in this early collection find their way into Lee's later work, and become all the more lively for being better illustrated than they are in this oversized black-and-grey format.*
  51. Little, Jean. **When the pie was opened.** Toronto: Little, Brown, 1968. [J]. *This combination of short rhyming and free verse poems, many of them about the virtues of love, might appeal especially to girls. They are solid poems in a well-produced volume, but they seem to lack the sparkle of Little's prose.*
  52. Lower, Thelma Reid, and Frederick William Cogswell, Comps. **The enchanted land: Canadian poetry for young readers.** Illus. Peggy Steele. Scarborough, Ontario: Gage, 1967. [J/S]. *This textbook-style collection includes a strong selection of poems which are arranged according to themes such as "Our neighbours" and "The dreams we make" and represent such well-known Canadian poets as Irving Layton, Earle Birney and Miriam Waddington.*
  53. McConnell, Robert. **Norbert Nipkin.** Illus. Steve Pilcher. Toronto: Cerebrus Publishing, 1978. [P]. *An expensive-looking book with gorgeous full-colour illustrations, this is the story in verse of how little Norbert Nipkin ignores his mother's warning and is captured by horrible Grog the Zlog who, for no apparent reason, immediately makes friends with Norbert. The implication that Mother's warning was frivolous might not be appreciated by some parents.*
  54. Macdonald, Anne. **The travels of Gunter Krempig.** Illus. Larry Finn. Ottawa: Gunther Press, 1982. [P]. *An hilarious short narrative about the ill-fated travels of a pig who sinks a Chinese junk, gets bitten by a camel, and has the tires eaten off his car by a giant beetle; this nonsensical story is paired with cartoon-like illustrations that are genuinely funny.*
  55. McGill, Jean S. **Another great grandfather story.** Toronto: Jean S. McGill, 1971.
  56. \_\_\_\_\_. **A great grandfather story.** Toronto: Jean S. McGill, 1970. [P/J]. *Stories in verse presented in booklet form, these two volumes are not outstanding either in terms of text or of illustrations. The first (**A great grandfather story**) tells*

about maple syrup time; the second about life on the farm, but there is neither plot nor strong poetry to distinguish them.

57. Mackay, Isabel Ecclestone. **The shining ship and other verse for children.** Illus. Thelma Cudlipp. New York: George H. Doren Co., 1918.
58. ———. **The shining ship and other verse for children.** Rev. ed. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1929. [P/J]. *One of our earliest volumes of poetry for children by a Canadian writer, this charming book is reminiscent of Robert Louis Stevenson, and some of the short whimsical verses may have appeal for modern children. The earlier edition contained forty-two poems; the later one 88.*
59. Macnab, Gwen. **My white cap horses.** Toronto: Initiative, 1980. [P/J]. *Written in rhyme and presented in paragraph form, this story, of a shipwrecked sailor who is washed ashore in his lifeboat on the backs of ghostly white horses, might be a haunting text, but it is deflated by its humorous illustrations.*
60. Manning, Dorothy. **The wildlife alphabet book.** Vancouver: Intermedia, 1981. [P].
61. Manning, Linda. **Wondrous tales of wicked Winston.** Illus. Barbara Eidlitz. Toronto: Annick Press, 1981. [J]. *Two stories in verse, with a two-line "hook" after each verse, tell how witch-like Winston and his cat Winnie hunt for bounty on Lake Erie. In the first story, they cause mischief for campers; in the second, they raid a shipwreck for treasure.*
62. Metcalf, John, ed. **The speaking earth.** Toronto: Van Nostrand, 1976. [J]. [J/S]. *This book of poems by established Canadian poets deals with Canadian people and places. It is divided into four general thematic sections. It is illustrated with black-and-white photographs and is a strong collection which should appeal to older children and adults.*
63. Mitcham, Allison. **Inuit summer.** Illus. Peter Mitcham. Trans. Gerald Bellefleur. Erin, Ontario: Porcupine's Quill, 1979. Not seen. [J].
64. Moore (Ship), Marlene. **The Christmas snowmobile.** Illus. John Mycka. Cobalt, Ontario: Highway Bookshop, 1977. [P]. *The rhymes are occasionally forced (e.g. "Cupid. . . stupid") in this tale of how Santa's reindeer come down with the flu and Elmo the Elf saves the day by converting Santa's old sled into a flying snowmobile.*
65. Mowat, Grace Helen. **Funny fables of Fundy and other poems for children.** Ottawa: Ru-Mi-Lou Books, 1928. [P/J]. *In the prologue to this "Victorian" collection of Maritime verses, the author cautions her readers to seek a moral in each fable and promises that the poems will not be dull; that "in these fables, every one, / You'll find a fund of Fundy fun."*
66. Musgrave, Susan. **Gullband thought that measles was a happy ending.** Illus. Erica Ducornet. Vancouver: Douglas & MacIntrye, 1974. [J]. *Each of the forty-nine poems in this collection is untitled and is accompanied by a pencil illustration, but the tone is melancholy and depressing, and the poems may be considered to be cryptic by younger readers.*
67. Newman, Fran, ed. **Round slice of the moon, and other poems for Canadian kids.** Richmond Hill, Ontario: Scholastic-TAB, 1980. [J]. *A strong poetry collection which combines the work of well-known poets like Raymond Souster and Al Purdy with poems by schoolchildren, whose ages and names are recorded after their poems. The table of contents lists only titles, and there is no index.*
68. Newman, Fran. **Sunflakes and snowshine.** Illus. Claudette Boulanger. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Scholastic-TAB, 1979. [P]. *Two poems for every month of the year except July and August are beautifully complemented by full-colour full-page illustrations in this collection. The illustrations are more striking than the poems.*
69. Nichol, bp. **Moosequakes and other disasters.** Illus. Anthony LeBaron. Windsor,

- Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1981. [P/J]. *Fourteen untitled poems deal with creatures of enduring interest to children: a worm, a cockroach, a shark, etc. The cartoon-like illustrations are genuinely funny, and while the humour of the text in some cases might be beyond a child reader, the situations themselves are not.*
70. \_\_\_\_\_. **Once: a lullaby.** Illus. Ed Roach. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1983. [P]. *The repetition of a four-line verse, only two words of which vary, through twenty verses might have a soporific effect on the adult reading aloud as well as the very young child for which the book is intended.*
71. Obed, Ellen Bryan. **Borrowed black.** Illus. Hope Yandell. St. John's, Newfoundland: Breakwater, 1979. [P]. *The presentation and illustrations are glossy, but the handlettered italic text is sometimes difficult to read in this ballad about a man/creature who borrows everything, including his eyes and ears and the moon, and refuses to give them back.*
72. O'Brian, Joseph. **Songs of Echo Cove.** Illus. Joseph Sherman. Downsview, Ontario: Initiative, 1980. [P/J]. *Although it is solidly produced, this book of thirteen four-line verses is sometimes mundane — (e.g. the poem "Whose home" goes: "Frogs turtles/Snakes/Fish birds/Drakes") — and sometimes incomprehensible (e.g. "Creator's plan": "God's image/Man always/First in kinds/So he stays.") The brown ink-drawings and binding are attractive, but the poetry falls flat.*
73. o huigin, sean. **The dinner party.** Illus. Maureen Paxton. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1984. [P/J]. *This hilarious rhyming narrative in which disgusting guests consume the most revolting fare imaginable will appeal to those who think poetry is for "sissies," but it is not to be read by those with weak stomachs!*
74. \_\_\_\_\_. **Ghost horse of the Mounties.** Illus. Phil McLeod. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1983. [J]. *The moving narrative, in this story about the search for R.C.M.P. horses which fled after being frightened by a prairie storm, is made more and more intense by the command to "imagine now," and combines the best of both prose and poetry. It won the Canada Council Children's Literature Prize in 1983.*
75. \_\_\_\_\_. **Scary poems for rotten kids.** Illus. Anthony LeBaron. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1982. [P/J]. *This book of rhyming anecdotes about ghosts, goblins and monsters is funny and scary enough to appeal to any child.*
76. \_\_\_\_\_. **The trouble with stitches.** Illus. Anthony LeBaron. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1981. [P/J]. *The straightforward language of these poems and the funny situations they describe will make them interesting for children, although o huigin's customary lack of punctuation and capitalization and the frequent use of poetic license may be a problem for some readers.*
77. \_\_\_\_\_. **Well, you can imagine.** Illus. John Fraser. Ed. Edward Pickersgill. Windsor, Ontario: Black Moss Press, 1983. [P/J]. *This book reproduces some of the poems from **The trouble with stitches** and adds some new ones, then wraps it all up with an essay on poetry and poetics for adults and older children. The essay was previously published as "Poe-tree, an introduction to experimental poetry."*
78. O'Neil, Mildred Jean. **The story of Jody, the Chinese poodle.** 4th ed. Illus. Trudy Lyon. Napanee, Ontario: Windmill Print Shop, 1980. [P]. *A forty-two page booklet of verse about an ordinary dog and his friend Gi Gi the budgie, this story is trite and overly long, and the pictures are amateurish.*
79. Pacey, Desmond. **The cat, the cow and the kangaroo: the collected children's verse of Desmond Pacey.** Illus. Mary Pacey. Fredericton, New Brunswick: Brunswick Press, 1968.



80. \_\_\_\_\_. *The cow with the musical moo and other verses for children.* (A Beaver Book). Illus. Milada Horejs and Karel Rohlicek. Fredericton, New Brunswick: Brunswick Press, 1952.
81. \_\_\_\_\_. *Hippity Hobo and the bee.* Fredericton, New Brunswick: Brunswick Press, 1953. [P]. *Each of the two earlier books by Pacey tells an adventure of the young boy Hippity — in the first he meets a cow with blue eyes and curly hair and scarlet toes, while in the second he rides on the back of a bee which has turned into an airplane. The Hippity poems, along with the other short poems that accompany them in the two earlier books, have been combined into The cat, the cow and the kangaroo.*
82. Parsons, Brenda Burgess. *Gramma's rhymes of the Maritimes.* Illus. Kathy Edge Balser. Moncton, New Brunswick: Betsons Publishing, 1979. [P/J]. *Surprisingly whimsical for its recent publication date, this book uses some Victorian imagery and language which might strike modern children as being old-fashioned: e.g. "...She told the orb on high/The sun looked the whole strait over./ 'There's a ship in the distance,' I spy."*
83. Patterson, Pat and Joe Weissman. *Hickory dickory duck: a book of very funny rhymes and picture puzzles.* A Chickadee Book. Toronto: Greey de Pencier Books, 1981. [P]. *An excellent, imaginative book in which Mother Goose rhymes have been re-written nonsensically. Each verse concludes with a rhyming riddle, the answer to which is hidden in the brightly coloured illustrations.*
84. Pittman, Al. *Down by Jim Long's Stage: rhymes for children and young fish.* Illus. Pam Hall. St. John's, Newfoundland: Breakwater Books, 1976. [P]. *Each of these short bouncy rhymes, similar to limericks, deals with a different kind of fish or sea creature. The rhymes are humorous, and the book won the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award for Illustrators in 1977.*
85. Priest, Robert. *The ruby hat of O'Markiam: and other poems for children.* Illus. Rudy McToots. Toronto: AOK Press, 1979. Not seen.
86. Rising, Trudy L. and Kathryn De Vos Miller. *Snails, slugs, spiders and bugs. . . a child's guide to nature.* Toronto: Magook/McClelland and Stewart, 1977. [P/J]. *This well-produced, beautifully illustrated nature guide has a single line of rhyming text on each page, and while it is not outstanding poetically, it was never meant to be. The paintings are the highlight of this book.*
87. Roberts, Ruth. *Willie the hippopotamus.* Book One Willie Series. Illus. Tom Sankey. Toronto: Red Rock, 1978. [P]. *A story in verse, with amusing illustrations, this book tells about a hippo who plays hookey, misses his school lesson on "preventive-action in case of hunters," and ends up in the zoo.*
88. Sanderson, Irma. *The naughty billy goat.* Illus. Juliette Daley. Fredericton, New Brunswick: Lyndon Press, 1981. [P]. *In this amusing story-in-verse, the problem of a billy goat who eats everything in sight is solved when he swallows a policeman's whistle and spends his time whistling instead.*
89. Simmie, Lois. *Auntie's knitting a baby.* Illus. Anne Simmie. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1984. [P/J]. *The shorter poems in this collection are likely to be a big hit: (e.g. "If you think/Mosquito bites pain ya,/Be glad you don't live/In Transylvania.") and while the longer poems sometimes force rhyme and metre, they are all humorous and deal with a whole range of emotions and experiences.*
90. Sneyd, Lola. *The asphalt octopus: a child's world in poetry.* Illus. Doug Sneyd. Toronto: Simon and Pierre, 1982. [P/J]. *Sketchy illustrations accompany these poems about progress and nature, which use imaginative language and appealing rhymes and rhythm to get their point across.*

91. \_\_\_\_\_. *The concrete giraffe*. Illus. Doug Sneyd. Toronto: Simon and Pierre, 1984. [P/J]. *Some of the illustrations in this collection are more polished than those in Asphalt octopus, and the poetry here is just as fresh, and deals with various Toronto landmarks.*
92. Straiton, Bill. *Selections from the tiger witch. . . and the winkle pickers*. Illus. Len Norris. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Scholastic-TAB, 1976.
93. \_\_\_\_\_. *The tiger witch*. Illus. Len Norris. Toronto: Longman's, 1963.
94. \_\_\_\_\_. *The winkle pickers*. Illus. Len Norris. Toronto: Longman's 1962. [P/J]. *The nonsense stories in verse in these collections are catchy and imaginative and have a strong poetic sense, and they are complemented by humorous line drawings. The poems for the most recent book were drawn from the two earlier ones.*
95. Swede, George. *Tick bird: poems for children*. Illus. Katherine Helmer. Toronto: Three Trees Press, 1983. [J]. *This small book of haiku and short poems is just the right size to hold a child's attention, and the author comments that it was put together especially for them from work originally intended for adults.*
96. \_\_\_\_\_. *Time is flies: poems for children*. Illus. Darcia Labrosse. Toronto: Three Trees Press, 1984. [J]. *Similar in format to Tick bird, this little book contains even shorter poems, and a number of "sound effects" which should have appeal.*
97. Thompson, Hilary. *Warm is a circle*. Illus. author. Hantsport, Nova Scotia: Lancelot, 1979. [P]. *The free verse poetry in this booklet-style volume is thoughtful, but it is too static and abstract to appeal to a child, and the awkward and childish illustrations add nothing to the text.*
98. Toews, Margaret. *Fly high my kite*. Illus. Ralph Frieson. Neilburg, Saskatchewan: Milton and Margaret Toews, 1982. [J]. *Printed in brown and soft red on heavy paper, and well-bound into a paperback, this 165-page collection is divided into sections, some of which have a clear Christian message. The poems in the last section have been set to music.*
99. Vance, Bruce, ed. *Being born and growing older*. Toronto: Van Nostrand, 1971. Not seen.
100. \_\_\_\_\_. *In and out of love*. Toronto: Van Nostrand, 1971. Not seen.
101. Wainscott, John. *Furred and feathered people: little stories in verse*. Illus. author. Cornwall, Ontario: Vesta Publications, 1977. [P/J]. *Very little about this collection is worthy of note — the verses are ordinary, the illustrations awkward, the production unspectacular, and the booklet is too long.*
102. Walker, Graham T. *Dog dreams and other poems*. Illus. Kate Scoones. Burnaby, B.C.: Laughing Fox Books, 1978. [P/J]. *The booklet form does not do justice to these poems, which convey a real sense of magic and imagination in haunting fantasies like the one in the title poem, where the narrator enters his dog's dream: "I curled up beside him,/and rode on his back/to the night of the dog dreams. . . the stars turned in circles,/the wind smelled so wild. . ."*
103. \_\_\_\_\_. *The dragon and the lulla*. Illus. Kate Scoones. Burnaby, B.C.: Laughing Fox Books, 1979. [P/J]. *Similar in format to Dog dreams, the presentation of this volume, with its borders on each page, is slightly better, but still not striking enough to do justice to Walker's poems.*
104. The Western Producer. *Glistening in the sun: an anthology of YC verse*. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1977. [J/S].
105. Westman, Irene. *The seven dwarfs of woodland*. Peterborough, Ontario: Irene Westman, 1967. [J]. *In a twenty-four page long ballad, Westman tells what happened after the prince found Snow White, but the metre, grammar and rhyme are so painful that few adults, never mind children, will get through it. The eight pages of shorter poems following the ballad are not much better.*

106. Wilson, Keith and Elva Motheral, eds. *The poet's record: verses on Canadian history*. Winnipeg: Peguis, 1975. [J/S]. *This textbook-like collection is not illustrated. It is divided into sections according to historical period, with corresponding short introductions to the poems.*
107. Wirsig, Kirk Horst. *K.H. Wirsig's gleebes of Wizagon*. Illus. Enrico Renz. Vancouver, B.C.: Pilouale, 1982. [J]. *This very long ballad in eight "chapters" is about the adventures in many fantasy lands of the imaginary creatures Whun and Sonya, but it is too long to be read in even two or three sittings, and even the black and white illustrations and the division of the poem into sections do little to relieve the problem of being overwhelmed by so much text.*
108. Woolaver, Lance. *Change of tide*. Illus. Anna Gamble. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Nimbus Publishing, 1982. [P/J]. *Two ballads set in the Maritimes deal with a boy who plays guitar with his feet (because he has injured his hands at work, on the fishing hooks) and a girl who longs to become a dancer — the characters come together at the end of the second ballad, but the overall tone is melancholy and heavy.*
109. \_\_\_\_\_. *Christmas with the rural mail*. Illus. Maud Lewis. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Nimbus Publishing, 1979. [P/J]. *This tiny book with "full-page" colour paintings — which were originally designed as Christmas cards — is more appealing for its illustrations than for its loosely narrative rhyming text about the delivery of a Christmas parcel to a baby.*
110. \_\_\_\_\_. *From Ben Loman to the sea*. Illus. Maud Lewis. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Nimbus Publishing, 1979. [P/J]. *This book is similar in format to **Christmas with the rural mail**, and the narrative shows a similar lack of continuity because the verses were apparently written to match illustrations that already existed. It tells the story of an automobile trip from "Ben Loman Mountain" to the coast.*
111. Young, Chip. *The boy who came with Cartier*. Illus. John Mardon. Toronto: Clarke Irwin, 1974. [J/S]. *This free verse narrative, which swings from being strongly conversational to strongly poetic, is an impressive description of Cartier's arrival in Canada, told by a mysterious man to modern children on a beach. The story-telling framework turns the text into a gripping fantasy.*

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