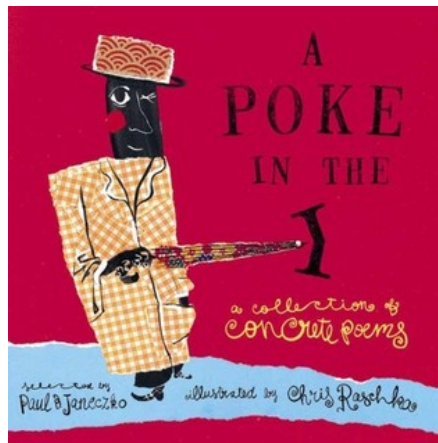




A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems

Paul B. Janeczko (Editor) , Chris Raschka (Illustrator)

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Even kids who don't know they like poetry will love this playful, visually accessible collection of thirty concrete poems—illustrated by a Caldecott Honor artist!

Concrete poems startle and delight the eye and mind. The size and arrangement of words—or even just letters on the page can add or alter meaning, and poems can take the shape of crows and fly off the page. Or become a balloon filled with rhyme drifting away from outstretched hands. Or fourteen exuberant lines can become "Joy Sonnet in a Random Universe." Here in a single extraordinary volume are thirty poems from some of the world's finest visual poets, including John Hollander, Emmett Williams, Maureen W. Armour, and Douglas Florian—a spirited "poke in the I" brought to you by the very talented Paul B. Janeczko and Chris Raschka.

A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems Details

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From Reader Review A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems for online ebook

Katy says

These concrete poems are a delight to the "eye" as well. Another book to inspire to concentrate on a year-long poetry writing unit for my August class

Angelica Rios says

This could be a really good book for kindergarten and up because it would really help them get the hang of poetry and what it's all about. I would use this book to teach a 6th grade class about the different types of poetry and have them create their own poem.

Chris Calzolaio says

This is an illustrated book of concrete poems written by a variety of authors and illustrated by Chris Raschka. The poems are arranged according to subject. For example, pages 28 and 29 both have poems about zoo animals, pages 16 and 17 have poems about popsicles.

I liked some of the poetry in this book, but I didn't really love the book as a whole. A couple poems really stand out to me though. I liked "queue" but I really loved "Tennis Anyone?" That was really a fun poem to read!

Charlie Beck says

A collection of children's "concrete poetry" poetry that includes a visual element- words arranged a certain, specific fonts and sizes, etc.

Dolly says

This book offers an interesting and unusual collection of concrete poems, some of which only consist of one word, some merely taking the shape of the theme of the poem, others comprised of nonsensical words.

The poems are fun to read aloud and the watercolor, ink and torn paper illustrations really complement the poems nicely. We enjoyed reading this book together.

I would recommend this book for older children, as they can more fully appreciate the interaction of the shape and flow of the poem along with the words.

Janai Walker says

This book won the Notable Children's Books award. This book takes poems and brings them to life through concrete poetry.

Michelle Albrecht says

This book holds a collection of concrete poems by different authors. This book can be used for all ages. This is a great style of poetry that can help get reluctant readers interested in poetry.

Mitchell Thacker says

I don't necessarily like poetry books. I think this one is for littler kids ages somewhere between 5-7. But, if I was that age I would probably like it a little more.

Rhayne says

When I first heard the term concrete poem I imagined a large piece of cement laid out in front of me. In my gloved hands I carried a chisel along with other tools, preparing myself to shape the block in front of me into something which reads as realistic. Although concrete poems in no way involve cement, unless of course in subject matter, my original interpretation is not far off of what a concrete poem actually is. A concrete poem is a poem which acts as a picture, in other words the subject matter or content of the poem is exposed to the viewer in some kind of visual way (literal or not). Concrete poems are usual used within books as they simply only tell their own visual rendered subject rather than a conceptualized story , however I was able to find a book of concrete poem collected by Paul B Janeczko.

A poke in the I by Paul B Janeczko is both creative and unusual. Illustrator Chris Raschka, complements each collected poem by placing them adjacent to abstract mixed media renditions which help to further carry the poems original message. Some of the poems are more literal in content, while others require a bit other critical thinking, Janeczko's collection of poems are both eye catching an entertaining. Although some require a bit of head turning or even squinting, the poems depict a playful interpretation of the written word proving language isn't always information or informative sometimes it can simply be artistic expression.

A poke in the I opens young readers to the world of creative poetry while entertaining older readers with artfully rendered interpretations of our daily experience via written expression. Although sometimes the poems are so simple you wonder if you can even really consider one word poetry, concrete poems prove to be a valuable to tool for both entertainment and relaying information to the reader. By choosing poems that express fragmentary moments of common experience and allowing Raschka to illustrate tasteful modern complements, Janeczko gives a new dimension to these poems. Although concrete poems carry their own visual impact by implementing elements which enhance the work we are able to exhibit poems in a way that is easy for youths to conceptualize and adds to our own overall understanding of the subject matter as readers/educators/parents. Also by teaching children poems can be artistic rather than based on rhythm and rhyme scheme, we introduce foundations of artistic/creative conceptualization which can help to produce critical thinking skills and allow readers to conceptualize the world around them in new and interesting

ways; and with such a visual impact one can help but get poked in the eye by these concrete poems.

Natalie Marshall says

A Poke in the I is a great example of a descriptive children's book as discussed in Schneider's ch 10 of Inside Outside and Upside Down of Young Children's Lit. In "Popsicle" I love the repetition of "sicle" using descriptive visual and auditory language, like licksicle, dripsicle. "Easy Driver" mirrors the motion and urgency of the pigeon diving off the building and pulling its wings out to float down gently. I would still say this is a picture book because it not only creates images with the words, but they work in tandem with the other painted images to create the story.

Carrie G says

TOO FUN! A book filled with whimsical concrete poems and beautiful illustrations. "Easy Diver" and "Merging Traffic" were easily my favorites! Can't wait to share some of these with students for National Poetry Month!

Caitlin Mayer says

1. This book demonstrates many different kinds of poetry. For example, shape poems and sound poems. Some of the poems are straight forward and others are left open for interpretation. The illustrations support the text and can guide the reader to understanding.
 2. The illustrations not only support the text, but are visually stimulating and interesting for the viewer. Introducing students to the creativity that poetry brings helps them in writing their own.
 3. I would pair this book, with a book that is the opposite, one where poems are written in more of a traditional fashion. For example, Beneath The Blue Umbrella.
 4. I would use this book when teaching poetry to my students. I would use this book to demonstrate the creativity that can be done with poetry. For example, making it into shapes, using only a few words, etc.
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Allison Wilbanks says

This is such a great and fun book full of concrete poems. They are all so colorful and fun to read. I really think young children would love reading through these poems and try to figure out what they are talking about. I really like how he explains what a concrete poem is. The illustrations were great and gave the book so much life. I definitely recommend using this book at home or in the classroom to teach students about the different types of poetry.

Brianna says

What's cool about this poetry book is that it contains illustrations as well as poems. I feel that children will enjoy having pictures to go with the poems.

(NS) Sue says

This is a colorful collection of concrete poems by an assortment of authors. Some are only one word, but the arrangement of the letters conveys the message beautifully, as in "Stowaway" by Robert Carola. Others have playful words swirling across two pages such as "Skipping Rope Spell" by John Agard. The often zany illustrations made of torn paper, ink, and watercolor captivate the reader without taking away from the arrangement of the poems themselves. This is a unique book for grades K-6 which would also be a great resource for children writing their own concrete poems. Gr. 2-8
