

Pure Poetry

> > > > > VOYA'S POETRY PICKS FOR 2007

> VOYA offers its tenth annual list of poetry titles that reviewers have rated highly between June 2007 and April 2008. Let yourself go in the words and rhythms offered by these works. And who knows? Perhaps some day one of our Teen Poetry Contest winners will be featured in this booklist!

Adoff, Jaime. **The Death of Jayson Porter**. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion/DBG, 2008. 320p. \$15.99. 978-1-4231-0691-3. VOYA February 2008. **5Q 4P S**

"[A] blank verse poem . . . wrenches the reader immediately into high school junior Jason's overwhelming world of parental abuse, poverty, and depression. . . . Boys will find this book to be true and gripping, but it also needs to be read by others, including youth librarians looking for insight as well as excellent writing."—Francisca Goldsmith.

Applegate, Katherine. **Home of the Brave**. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, 2007. 256p. \$16.95. 978-0-312-36765-7. VOYA August 2007. **4Q 4P M J S**

"[F]ree verse . . . allows the author unlimited capacity to use colorful language and literary devices to compare the unfamiliar with the familiar, the positive with the negative. The result is an almost lyrical story."—Chris Carlson.



Bagert, Brod. **Hormone Jungle: Coming of Age in Middle School**.

Maupin House, 2006. 121p. \$23.95 Trade pb. 978-0-929895-87-1. Illus. VOYA June 2007. **3Q 4P M J**

"Full of short poems, bold color, and artwork created by real students . . . , the book's look and layout will draw in readers—especially reluctant ones. . . . Bagert catches the rhythm, emotions, and voice of young teen and preteen writers."—Jeff Mann.



Crisler, Curtis L. **Tough Boy Sonatas**. Illus. by Floyd Cooper. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2007. 88p. \$19.95. 978-1-932425-77-2. Illus. VOYA August 2007. **5Q 2P S A/YA**

"Crisler's poetry paints a vivid picture of violence, poverty, sex, family, and community in verse that demands to be performed, to be experienced beyond the printed page."—Mary Ann Harlan.



Fullerton, Alma. **Walking on Glass**. HarperTempest, 2007. 131p. \$15.99. 978-0-06-077851-4. PLB \$16.89. 978-0-06-077852-1. VOYA June 2007. **3Q 4P J S**

"In his diary of poems, an unnamed son traces his decision to end his mother's comatose state . . . [providing a] logical, compassionate, and acceptable ending to an everyman journey into maturity."—Lucy Schall.



Grandits, John. **Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems**. Clarion, 2007. 48p. \$15. 978-0-618-56860-4. Illus. VOYA August 2007. **3Q 4P M**

"Filled with shape poems in objects such as guitars, cheerleaders, or even a bad-hair day. . . . [the book] paints a picture of teenage Jessie, a strongly opinionated girl, finding her way in the world."—Kelly Czarnecki.



Havill, Juanita. **Grow: A Novel in Verse**. Peachtree, 2008. 160p. \$14.95. 978-1-56145-441-9. Illus. VOYA April 2008. **4Q 4P M**

"Twelve-year-old Kate Sibley tells her what-I-did-last-summer story in a series of charming poems . . . [with] Whimsical illustrations, fast-moving narrative, and extensive white space [making it a] good choice for middle school female reluctant readers."—Lucy Schall.

Herrick, Steven. **The Wolf**. Front Street/Boyd's Mills, 2006. 214p. \$17.95. 978-1-932425-75-8. VOYA June 2007. **4Q 3P J S**

"The isolated rural setting, the rugged Australian landscape, and the emotional barrenness of the central protagonist join elegantly in the spare language of the free-verse poems in three voices . . . , deftly illustrating the small dramas that shape lives and the complicated emotional investments that underpin daily choices."—Megan Lynn Isaac.



Lewis, J. Patrick. **The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse**. National Geographic, 2007. 31p. \$17.95. 978-1-4263-0036-3. Photos. Maps. Biblio. Source Notes. Chronology. VOYA April 2008. **5Q 2P M J S**

"Words and photographs [combine] to document the emotional scars caused by a conflict that pitted brother against brother. . . . Lewis . . . selects stunningly poignant Civil War photographs and pairs them with spare and haunting poems that heighten the emotional power of those images."—Jan Chapman.

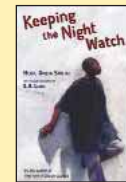


Nye, Naomi Shihab. **Honeybee**. Greenwillow, 2008. 176p. \$16.99. 978-0-06-08539-0. PLB \$17.89. 978-0-06-085391-4. VOYA April 2008. **4Q 3P J S**

"This small but powerful collection of poetry and poetic prose loosely memorializes many current events including the war in the Middle East and the disappearance of the honeybees, but it also follows Nye on her personal journeys all over the world."—Kimberly Paone.

Smith, Hope Anita. **Keeping the Night Watch**. Henry Holt, 2008. 80p. 978-0-8050-7202-0. Illus. VOYA February 2008. **3Q 4P M J**

"This journal in poetic form details the struggles of African American C. J. (Cameron James) Washington III through the fall and spring of his thirteenth year . . . [in] a worthwhile addition to any middle school multicultural collection."—Laura Woodruff.



Sones, Sonya. **What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know**. Simon & Schuster, 2007. 304p. \$16.99. 978-0-689-87602-8. VOYA June 2007. **4Q 5P J S**

"Sones's wonderful free verse comes from Robin's point of view [in this sequel to **What My Mother Doesn't Know** (Simon & Schuster, 2001/VOYA October 2001)] but it is just as authentic and heart wrenching as Sophie's voice in the first book. Teens will devour this book and will again be left wishing for more at the end."—Kimberly Paone. ■



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