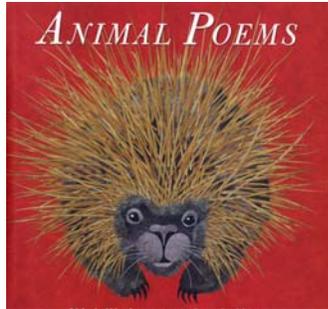


FARRAR STRAUS GIROUX
Poetry Activity Guide



Full-color pictures throughout
48 pages / \$17.00
ISBN: 978-0-374-38057-1

Animal Poems

by Valerie Worth, pictures by Steve Jenkins

Reading Level

Grades PreK up

“This stunning collection will encourage readers to become careful observers, and to make the world of nature their own.” —Starred, *Publishers Weekly*

Snail, whale, and twenty-one other animals are captured in Valerie Worth’s free verse and Steve Jenkins’s exquisite cut-paper illustrations.

Collected Poems for Children

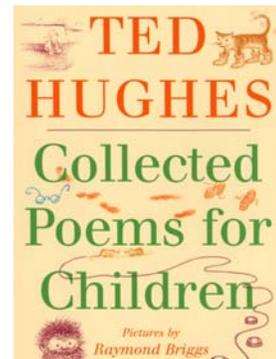
by Ted Hughes, pictures by Raymond Briggs

Reading Level

Grades 3 up

“Children will love the sounds of the rhythmic lines, and Briggs’s scattering of small black-and-white drawings perfectly captures the tiny details in the words.” —*Booklist*

This collection brings together for the first time the 250 poems Ted Hughes wrote throughout his life for children beginning with those for younger readers and progressing to more sophisticated poems.



Black-and-white illustrations
Index of titles, index of first lines
272 pages / \$18.00
ISBN: 978-0-374-31429-3

Poetry Activity

Both Valerie Worth and Ted Hughes wrote poems entitled “Squirrel,” reproduced below. Read these poems with your students:

Squirrel

by Valerie Worth

Late autumn rains
Fall colder than snow,
When the wet wind’s floods
Wash down from the trees
Their last ragged leaves—
Except where the creaking forks
Of the high black boughs hold fast
These rough brown bundles, woven so
 deep
Not a drop nor a draft may seep
Inside, to the nest where
The gray squirrel sleeps:
Wrapped snug in his fat,
And his fur, and the curl
Of his tail.

Squirrel

by Ted Hughes

With a rocketing rip
Squirrel will zip
Up a tree-bole
As if down a hole.

He jars to a stop
With tingling ears.
He has two gears:
Freeze and top.

Then up again, plucky
As a jockey
Galloping a Race-
Horse into space.

ANIMAL POEMS / COLLECTED POEMS FOR CHILDREN

Discussion Questions

- How do you imagine the squirrel in the Valerie Worth poem? In the Ted Hughes poem?
- Compare and contrast the descriptions of the two squirrels. How are they similar? Different?
- What season do you think it is in the Worth poem? How do you know this? Can you tell what season the Hughes poem takes place in? Explain.
- Discuss the poetic form of each “Squirrel” poem: narrative, lyric, free verse, other?
- Both poets use rhyme in their poems. What effect does rhyme have on each poem?
- Imagery is used to create the mood and setting of a poem. It also affects the reader’s senses. How does imagery affect the mood and setting of each poem? What senses are engaged when reading the poems?
- Does either poem make you think of or look at squirrels in different ways?

Activities

- Compare/Contrast: Have students complete a Venn diagram showing how the two poems are similar and different.
- Have students choose one of the poems and illustrate it.
- Have students write their own “Squirrel” poems using poetic elements such as figurative language; rhyme, rhythm, and repetition; and imagery.
- Choral Reading: Place students in groups of 3–4 and have them choose one poem to read aloud together. Encourage them to be creative in their reading and remind them that how they read the poems affects the mood and feeling of the poem.

About the authors and illustrators

Valerie Worth (1933–1994) is the author of many books for children, including *All the Small Poems and Fourteen More* and *Peacock and Other Poems*, which appeared on *Fanfare*, *The Horn Book’s* Honor List, and was a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year and a *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year.

Steve Jenkins has written and illustrated many picture books, including *Actual Size* and the Caldecott Honor Book *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?* He lives in Boulder, Colorado.

Ted Hughes (1930–1998) published numerous volumes of poetry and prose for adults and children. He received the *Guardian* Award for Children’s Fiction in 1985 and was appointed Poet Laureate of England in 1984.

Raymond Briggs has produced some of the most cherished and admired picture books of our time, including *The Bear*, *Father Christmas*, and *The Snowman*. He lives in London, England.

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX

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