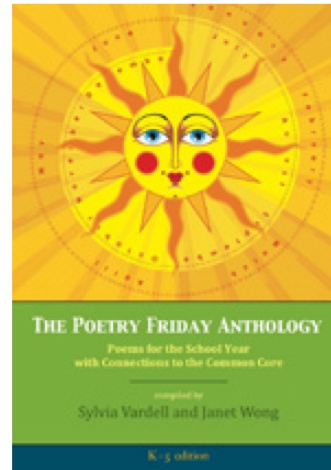


From *Reading Today Online*, a professional journal of the International Reading Association:
<http://www.reading.org/general/Publications/blog/BlogSinglePost/reading-today-online/2012/09/13/book-reviews-professional-reading>

Vardell, Sylvia, & Wong, Janet. (Compilers). (2012). *The Poetry Friday anthology: Poems for the school year with connections to the Common Core, K-5 Edition*. Princeton: Pomelo Books.

If there is one thing most teachers seem to be afraid to teach, it has to be poetry. Well, they need fear no more, thanks to this wonderful new poetry anthology put together by two former members of the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children Committee. This visually-appealing collection features 218 original poems written by 75 poets specifically for the anthology. Arranged by grade level, from kindergarten to fifth grade, the book features one poem on each page as well as poetic connections to the Common Core State Standards. Each poem has a "Take 5!" section with many suggestions about how to perform each poem, including simple props, and ideas about how to introduce poetry to children. The compilers have even provided references to poems or other poetry books with similar themes so that if students love one type of poem or one subject for a poem, they can easily find another similar one in this book or in another volume of poetry. Back matter includes a mini-glossary of poetry terms and a list of 25 websites and blogs devoted to children's poetry. There are memorable poems from some of the stalwarts of this type of writing: Arnold Adoff, Nikki Grimes, Julie Larios, J. Patrick Lewis, Jack Prelutsky, Laura Purdie Salas, Eileen Spinelli, Janet Wong, and Jane Yolen. While many of the poems feature familiar names, verses by others, such as Guadalupe Garcia McCall and Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, show that the future of poetry is in good hands. Be careful when reading this highly-addictive anthology. You may find yourself nodding vigorously in agreement at a poet's sentiments about a topic or chortling in glee. Find a place for this book on your desk since you'll be turning to it time and time again. You may even want two copies, one for your students and one for your own use.



- Barbara A. Ward, Washington State University Pullman