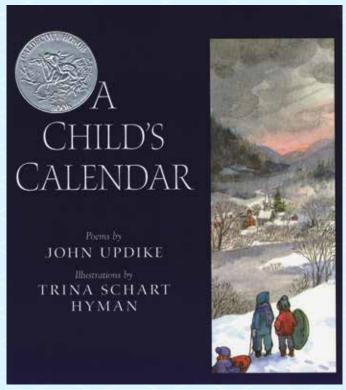
# Educator's Guide





All ages • HC: 978-0-8234-0872-6 • PB: 978-0-8234-1025-5 Also available as an e-book

## A Child's Calendar

Poems by JOHN UPDIKE

Illustrations by TRINA SCHART HYMAN

A CALDECOTT HONOR BOOK

#### GENRE AND THEMES

- Poetry and Rhymes
- Months of the Year
- Culture and Diversity

## About The Book

In this beloved Caldecott Honor book, twelve poems in a month-by-month format capture the joy a child and his family and their friends experience as they journey through the seasons. With sparkling poetry and glowing illustrations, readers of all ages will be enraptured by this thoughtful, and thoughtprovoking, gem.

## Introduction to Using Poetry in the Classroom or Library

The following is an excerpt from a transcript of a podcast by Dr. Sylvia Vardell, professor of library and information studies at Texas Woman's University and author of Poetry Aloud Here and the blog Poetry for Children. For the complete podcast, visit www.holidayhouse.com. Here Sylvia talks about why and how to use poetry across the curriculum, in the classroom, and in the library.

How do we use poetry effectively? There are many, many ways. I'm a big fan of infusing it throughout the day, throughout the week, throughout the school life. In the morning announcements, for example, when the principal is announcing plans for the day, why not have child volunteers share a poem a day? That's a lovely way to create a welcoming atmosphere and send out some thought-provoking poetry for kids to consider.

Poetry also lends itself to starting a lesson, as a way to focus children's attention on a key concept and distill some key ideas that then launches into a science lesson or a history lesson. The same can occur at the end of a lesson plan, reinforcing content through a poem at the end. Also, transitioning from subject to subject or class to class, using a poem as a way to get kids focused on two or three minutes of wordplay or enjoying language, is a wonderful activity for practical use.

I'm also a big fan of using poetry in the library. . . . You can lead kids to explore the poetry section with a simple scavenger hunt, for example, and have them pore over the poetry books on the shelves in the 811 section and elsewhere and look for examples of poetry that rhymes and poetry that doesn't, poetry that is concrete or shaped like its subject, or poetry about special topics, like the earth and science, or holidays and Halloween. That can be a lot of fun; and once kids start to pore through the books, they'll find a favorite poem, and you can end the session by inviting them to share one out loud.

## Classroom Activities

#### Connecting with the Common Core State Standards



#### LANGUAGE ARTS/WRITING

Literary Devices—A Child's Calendar is an example of descriptive poetry and uses the literary devices of onomatopoeia, rhyme, and personification. Define each for the class. Read the poems aloud and ask students to identify the various devices they heard in each poem. Use this activity as a springboard for students to write their own short poems using one or more of the literary devices.

#### Common Core Reading Standards for Literature K-5 / Craft and Structure

- **K.RL.5** Recognize common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems).
- **2.RL.4** Describe how words and phrases supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.

**Months of the Year**—To help students learn the months of the year, read the poems out of order and ask students to identify words, phrases, or stanzas of the various poems that are clues to the month written about. Showing the illustrations will also help to identify the months.

#### Common Core Reading Standards for Literature K-5 / Craft and Structure

- **K.RL.4** Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
- **1.RL.4** Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

For a writing/art activity, ask students to choose their own favorite month of the year. Have them brainstorm ideas about what makes it their favorite month—e.g., their birthday, a holiday, summer vacation—and jot down key words, phrases, or doodles to use as a starting point for creating their own illustrated poem. Share the reproducible sheet for "My Favorite Month" on the following page as a template.

#### College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing / Text Types and Purposes

**K-5.W.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. [CCSS Appendix A, page 7: Creative Writing beyond Narrative: The narrative category does not include all of the possible forms of creative writing, such as many types of poetry. The Standards leave the inclusion and evaluation of other such forms to teacher discretion.]

#### Vocabulary

A Child's Calendar is bursting with words which will enrich students' vocabulary. Reading the poems aloud will help children hear the beauty of the language as well as learn new words. To get started, here are just a few examples of words which may be unfamiliar: parkas, icicles, timid, budlets, blushing, jonquils, bungalows, chrysanthemums, honk. Ask students to try to define the words using clues from the text and illustrations. Offer thoughtful questions such as "In the poem 'January,' what addition to the illustration did the artist use to convey the feeling of a purring radiator?"

#### College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language / Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

CCSS K-5.1.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues. K-5.1.5 Determine understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

#### Additional Common Core Reading Standards for Literature K-5

#### Craft and Structure

- **3.RL.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.
- **3.RL.5** Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

#### Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- **K.RL.7** With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
- **1.RL.7** Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, settings, or events.
- **2.RL.5** Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.
- **3.RL.7** Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story.

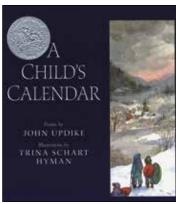
Name



How it looks to me!

Class

(title of my poem)	



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Visit your local library or bookstore for A CHILD'S CALENDAR and more books published by Holiday House. Check us out online for more fun activities!

## A Child's Calendar

Poems by John Updike

Illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman

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