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**Title:** Sunshine Makes the Seasons

**By:** Franklyn M. Branley

**Illustrated by:** Michael Rex

**Back Cover:** “Let’s-Read-And-Find-Out About The Sun Did you know that every minute of the day, even when you are standing still, the earth is going around the sun? The sun and its distance from the earth affect the weather. Read and find out all about how the sun makes the seasons!”

**Vocabulary:** rotates, lengths, twenty-four hours, seasons, North Pole, South Pole, equator, axis, tilted, opposite, temperature

**Find Out More About the Sun (Page 33)**

* The sun has been giving off light for the last 4.5 billion years.
* Light (traveling at 186,000 miles per second) takes about eight minutes to travel from the sun to the earth.
* The sun’s temperature is 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit at the surface and 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit at the center.
* The average distance from the earth to the sun is 93,000,000 miles.
* The sun is so large that 1 million planets the size of earth could fit inside it.
* The sun spins around once every 27. 4 days.
* The highest temperature ever recorded in the United States was 134 degrees Fahrenheit at Death Valley, California, in July 1913.
* The hottest temperature ever recorded anywhere on the planet was 136 degrees Fahrenheit at Al-‘Aziziyah, Libya, in September 1922.
* The world’s highest average temperature – 94 degrees Fahrenheit – occurs in Dakol, Ethiopia!
* The lowest temperature recorded on earth was 128.6 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, in Antarctica on July 21, 1983.

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**Title:** The Seasons Poetry for Young People

**Edited by:** John N. Serio

**Illustrations by:** Robert Crockett

**Back Cover:** “Open your eyes – and your other senses – to the wonders of nature and the power of poetry. William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, e.e. cummings, William Shakespeare, and other poetic geniuses share their vision of the glorious, ever-changing cycle of the natural world, where trees “frozen deep/In snowy garb” melt into the “mud-/luscious” world of spring. The beautiful poems here, some as light and airy as a summer breeze, others as dense as a winter’s snow, will inspire you to look at your surroundings.”

**Critical praise for books in the Poetry for Young People series…**

*“…satisfies in every way.”* – School Library Journal

*“…engaging…both informs and intrigues.”* – Booklist

*“Nothing short of breathtaking.”* – Parents

*“…the most ambitious attempt to bring poetry to children…”* – Los Angeles Times

*“…timeless writings and illustrations …celebrate the occasion.”* – American Bookseller

**Book Flap:** “Celebrate the never-ending cycle of life with poems and beautiful illustrations for all seasons.

 Summer, autumn, winter, and spring are each dramatic in their own. Way. Often the seasons are used to express the poet’s mood. Summer represents the rich midpoint of life: autumn, the season to reflect upon the past: witner, “The burnt-out ends of smoky days,” the months to consider more deeply the tru meaning of life; and spring, a time of rebirth and fresh starts.

 Summer, “When all the sky is clear and blue,” is to Nikki Giovanni a time of celebrations, when you eat “lots of /barbeque/and buttermilk/ and homemeade ice-cream” and can “go barefooted/ and be warm/ all the time.” For James S. tippet, it’s a chance to happily “lay in the sun/ Much too lazy to rise and run.”

 Occasionally poets have completely different thoughts about a single season. While John Keats vividly describes autumn as a “friend” helping to “fill all fruit with ripeness to the core” and “set budding more, /And still more, later flowers for the bees,” Thomas Hood sees “No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, / No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, / November!”

 One of the rewards of poetry is a new appreciation for all the senses. Elinor Wylie’s beautiful and delicate verse portrays the peaceful silence of a winter snow, when “We hall walk in velvet shoes:/Wherever we go/Silence will fall like dews/On white silence below.” And you can almost feel the “sand between my toes” and the “sunburn on my nose” in John Ciardi’s “Summer Song.”

 Filled with stunning illustrations, these inventive and original verses are sure to awaken a new delight in the world around you.”

**Contents**

Introduction

**Poems of Summer**

Haiku

Sunning James S. Tippett

*from* Rain in Summer Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sumer is icumen in Anonymous

maggie and milley and molly and may e.e. cummings

Bed in Summer Robert Louis Stevenson

Knoxville, Tennessee Nikki Giovanni

Summer Song John Ciardi

**Poems of Autumn**

Haiku

Autumn Song Hilda Conkling

No! Thomas Hood

To Autumn John Keats

The Wild Swans at Coole W.B. Yeats

The Vagabond Song Bliss Carman

The morns are meeker than they were Emily Dickinson

**Poems of Winter**

Haiku

Velvet Shoes Elinor Wylie

Dust of Snow Robert Frost

When icicles hang by the wall William Shakespeare

The winter evening settles down T.S. Eliot

Winter Trees William Carlos Williams

Dreams Langston Hughes

The Snowflake Walter de la Mare

**Poems of Spring**

Haiku

The first Dandelion Walt Whitman

Dear March, come in! Emily Dickinson

in Just - e.e. cummings

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now A.E. Housman

Depression before Spring Wallace Stevens

I wandered Lonely As a Cloud William Wordsworth

The Locust Tree in Flower William Carlos Williams

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**Title:** Look How It Changes! Rookie Read-About Science

**By:** June Young

**Back Cover:** “This Rookie Read-About Science book introduces young readers to chemical changes. Colorful photos and simple text encourage children to read on their own as they learn that chemical changes take place when they bake a cake or toast a marshmallow or when leaves change color in the fall.”

**Vocabulary:** physical change, breaks, melts, freezes, stretches, same, chemical change, colors, heat, smoke, sizzle, nectar, rust, boil, hare, marshmallow, rust

****

**Title:** How Do You Know It’s Spring? Rookie Read-About Science

**By:** Allan Fowler

**Vocabulary:** leaves, grass, flowers, garden, springtime, robins, winter, nest, eggs, hatch, spring, snow, melted, rivers, streams, rushing, water, coat, umbrella, showers, baseball, friends, bikes, roller skates, playground, plow, fields, crops, plant, seeds, Easter, Passover, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, vacation, farmer, grass, sprouting

****

**Title:** How Do You Know It’s Fall? Rookie Read-About Science

**By:** Allan Fowler

**Vocabulary:** fall, leaves, trees, flock of geese, school, summer, chilly, jacket, farmers, reap, corn, harvest, potatoes, ripe, fruit, squirrels, gather, acorns, nuts, Halloween, pumpkins, Thanksgiving, feast, football, games, cheer, team, crisp, autumn, colors

****

**Title:** Henry and Mudge and the Snowman Plan

**By:** Cynthia Rylant

**Illustrated by:** Sucie Stevenson

**Back Cover:** “There is a snowman contest at the park on Saturday. Henry wants to build a very special snowman and win a prize. Can Henry, his father, and his big dog, Mudge, come up with the best snowman plan to win the contest?”

**Contents:**

Contest!

At the Park

Snow Aliens

**First Line:** “On a snowy day in January, Henry and Henry’s big dog Mudge saw a sign in a store window.”

**Last Line:** “And he and Henry and Henry’s big dog Mudge took their prizes home and made a wonderful cookie mess.”

**Contest!**

**Vocabulary:** contest, snowman, January, park, wagged, dessert, basement, chair, mustache, boot, wiped, paint, chin, ears, elbow, father, dad, mirror, hair, nose, house

**At the Park**

**Vocabulary:** park, people, Saturday, shovels, spoons, hats, shoes, rocks, carrots, marbles, broccoli, dogs, wagging, bedbugs, poodle, husky, dachshund, Chihuahua

**Snow Aliens**

**Vocabulary:** judges, snowpeople, snowcats, snowdogs, snow aliens, Abraham Lincoln, nervous, collar, painting, drooled, leopard, prizes, ribbon, cookies,



**Title:** Poppleton in Winter

**By:** Cynthia Rylant

**Illustrated by:** Mark Teague

**Back Cover:** “Poppleton loved his icicles. Each morning he took a ruler outside to see how much longer they had grown.”

**Contents:**

Icicles

The Bust

The Sleigh Ride

**Icicles**

**Vocabulary:** icicles, mail carrier, bonk, finch, picket fence

**Bust**

**Vocabulary:** creative, pagoda, clay, molding, tweaked, bust

**The Sleigh Ride**

**Vocabulary:** sleigh, midnight, twinkled, hooted

****

**Title:** Poppleton in Spring

**By:** Mark Teague

**Illustrated by:** Cynthia Rylant

**Back Cover:** “Poppleton loved spring at night.”

**Contents:**

Spring Cleaning

The Bicycle

The Tent

**Spring Cleaning**

**Vocabulary:** attic, yarn, knit, thumbtacks, shoelaces, lemonade

**The Bicycle**

**Vocabulary:** bicycle, exercise, faint, weakly, croaked

**The Tent**

**Vocabulary:** tent, chilly, pneumonia, mail carrier, quilts, flashlight, cocoa, buttered toast, blinds

****

**Title:** *The* Little Yellow Leaf

**By:** Carin Berger

**Book Jacket:** “As all the other leaves float off and fly past, Little Yellow Leaf thinks, *I’m not ready yet.*

As the seasons change all around, Little Yellow Leaf holds on to the tree. *Still not ready.*

Will Little Yellow Leaf *ever* be ready?

This is a story for anyone who has ever been afraid of facing the unknown – and a celebration of the friends who help us take the leap.”

**First Line:** “It was autumn.”

**Last Line:** “Together.”

**Vocabulary:** autumn, hush, forest, branch, oak tree, riot, fiery, swirled, beckoned, musky, flocks, geese, heaps, crackly, chill, harvest moon, bloomed, amber, flurried, shimmer, scarlet, soared

****

**Title:** Every Autumn Comes the Bear

**By:** Jim Arnosky

“The artwork is entrancing. A beautiful, imaginative, and informative approach to natural history for the nursery set.” – ***Booklist***

“Real natural history in a lovely book.” – ***Kirkus Reviews* (pointer review)**

“The lean powerful text uses an intimate, conversational tone to tell of typical bear ways…Each of the full-page watercolors is vibrant, translucent and strikingly composed.” **– *Publishers Weekly***

**First Line:** “There is a wooded hill behind our farm.”

**Last Line:** “Nestled there against cold rock, with only fat and fur to keep him warm, he sleeps all winter long.”

**Vocabulary:** wooded, rugged, cliff, ravens, perch, growls, bobcat, lair, trail, spring, claws, scent, fox, grouse, bursting, flight, amid, boulders, den, nestled

****

**Title:** Peepers

**By:** Eve Bunting

**Illustrated by:** James Ransome

**Book Jacket:** “It’s fall again, and time for Jim and Andy to help their dad run Fred’s Fall Color Tours. The tourists they shuttle around are “Leaf Peepers” – and, boy, do those Peepers love to “ooh” and “aah” about the dumbest things. Leaves, trees, pumpkins. Bo-o-oring.

 But this year, even as they poke fun at the Peepers, Jim and Andy can’t help noticing how the leaves floating in the river look like a brilliantly colored island, and how the spiky tree branches seem to sweep the clouds across the night sky…

 Maybe the Peepers aren’t so silly after all.”

**First Line:** “In fall my dad opens up the shed where our little green bus sits waiting.”

**Last Line:** “Look, how beautiful!”

**Vocabulary:** shed, tours, sparkle, peepers, tourists, sugar maples, shagbark hickory trees, chorus, ringed, speckled alder, red-feathered sumac, aspens, ripples, beavers, tombstone, umpteen, beeches, quaking, respect, propped, cornstalks, pose, scarecrows, moose, obliging, humongous, dusk, prances, fading, cling, sigh, stiff, frost, antiques, cherishables, eases, poke, spiky, crackling

**Similes:** “Our bus crawls slow as a caterpillar along the quiet roads.”

“There are umpteen little Clements children, their places marked with slates, like crooked teeth.”

“Leaves float like toy boats.”

“A few leaves sail through the air like butterflies.”

“She sleeps here all winter like an old black bear,” Dad says.”

“The moon is as big as a pumpkin.”

****

**Title:** Leaf Man

**By:** Lois Ehlert

**Book Jacket:** “Where does a Leaf Man go when the wind blows? Do *you* know?”

**First Line:** “Leaf Man used to live near me, in a pile of leaves.”

**Last Line:** “Maybe *you’ll* find a Leaf Man waiting to go home with you.”

**Vocabulary:** marsh, chickens, ducks, geese, pumpkins, winter squash, turkey, potatoes, carrots, cabbages, drifting, orchards, prairie, meadows, cows, gliding, breeze, lake, river, butterflies, mountains, flock, birds, earth, rustle

****

**Title:** Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

**By:** Robert Frost

**Illustrated by:** Susan Jeffers

**Book Jacket:** “The poem that begins “Whose woods these are I think I know” surely holds a special place in American hearts. Robert Frost is a poet who could and did speak to everyone, but rarely more memorably than in this evocation of the quiet delights of winter.”

 Award-winning illustrator Susan Jeffers brings the wintry woods to life with richly detailed, subtly colored artwork. In her sweeping landscapes, she captures the patterns of bare branches against the sky and the silent fury of a snowstorm. Her kindly narrator exudes a childlike joy as he stops to appreciate the beauty of a snowy afternoon. Readers will delight in the way he fulfills his “promises to keep” before he is off again in his sleigh, with many miles to go before he can sleep.

 Full of treasures to find among the trees, this book is perfect for introducing children to great American literature. Its elegance and magic will be cherished by the whole family.”

**Vocabulary:** woods, village, horse, farmhouse, lake, harness bells, downy flake

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**Title:** Snowflakes in Photographs

**By:** W.A. Bentley

**Back Cover:** “For almost half a century, W.A. Bentley caught and photographed thousands of snowflakes in his workshop at Jericho, Vermont, and made available to scientists and art instructors samples of his remarkable work. His painstakingly prepared images were remarkable revelations of nature’s diversity in uniformity: no two snowflakes are exactly alike, but all are based on a common hexagon.

In 1931, the American Meteorological Society gathered the best of Bentley’s photos and had them published: that work has long been available in a Dover reprint edition. The present volume includes a selection of 72 of the best plates (containing over 850 copyright-free black-and-white photographs), carefully selected from that larger collection.

An inexhaustible source of design inspiration for artists, designers, and craftspeople, these graceful patterns are ideal for use in textile and wallpaper design, as well as a host of other creative projects. These images will also appeal to anyone intrigued by the intricacy and beauty of design in the natural world.

Original Dover (2000) selection of photographs from *Snow Crystals,* published by Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1962.”

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**Title:** Snowflake Bentley

**By:** Jacqueline Briggs Martin

**Illustrated by:** Mary Azarian

**Caldecott Medal**

**Back Cover:** “Snow in Vermont is as common as dirt. Why would anyone want to photograph it? But from the time he was a small boy, Wilson Bentley has thought of the icy crystals as small miracles, and he determines that one day his camera will capture for others their extraordinary beauty.”

“Of all the forms of water, the tiny six-pointed crystals of ice called snow, that form in such quantities within the clouds during storms, are incomparably the most beautiful and varied.” – W.A. Bentley

“This is a lyrical biographical tribute to a farmer…whose love of snow and careful camera work expanded both natural science and photography.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“The book exhibits a beautiful blend of Azarian’s splendid woodcuts, a lyrical text, and factual sidebars.” – *Horn Book*

**First Line:** “In the days when farmers worked with ox and sled and cut the dark with lantern light, there lived a boy who loved snow more than anything else in the world.”

**Last Line:** “Neighbors and strangers have come to know of the icy wonders that land on their own mittens – thanks to Snowflake Bentley.”

**Vocabulary:** ox, sled, lantern, Vermont, Lake Champlain, Mount Mansfield, butterflies, apple blossoms, encyclopedias, microscope, pelted, roosting, crows, ice crystals, moisture, intricate, designs, camera, images, negatives, magnify, etching, sleigh, speck, molecules, moisture, jumbled, twitched, evaporate, pitch, spruce trees, spider webs, dew-covered insect, artists, designers, inspire, published, magazines, scholars, skywatchers, Wisconsin, pneumonia, monument, museum, delicate, plaque, hexagon

“*The average dairy farmer gets up at dawn because he has to go to work in the cow yard. I get up at dawn, too. But it is because I want to find some leaf, hung with dew: or a spider web which the dw has made into the most delicate ropes of pearls…I take my camera with me, get down on my knees in the wet grass, and photograph these exquisite bits of nature. Because I do this I can show these lovely things to people who never would have seen them without my help. They will get their daily quart of milk, all right. Other famers will attend to that. But I think I am giving them something which is just as important.” –* ***W.A. Bentley***

****

**Title:** The Mitten

**Adapted and Illustrated by:** Jan Brett

**Book Jacket:** “When Nicki drops his white mitten in the snow, he goes on without realizing that it is missing.

 One by one, woodland animals find it and crawl in; first, a curious mole then a rabbit, a badger and others, each one larger than the last. Finally, a big brown bear is followed in by a tiny brown mouse and what happens next makes a wonderfully funny climax.

 As the story of the animals in the mitten unfolds, the reader can see Nicki in the borders of each page, walking through the woods unaware of what is going on.

 Once again Jan Brett has created a dramatic and beautiful picture book in her distinctive style. She brings the animals to life with warmth and humor, and her illustrations are full of visual delights and details faithful to the Ukrainian tradition from which the story comes.”

**First Line:** “Once there was a boy named Nicki who wanted his new mittens made from wool as white as snow.”

**Last Line:** “First she looked to see if he was safe and sound, and then she saw that he still had his new mittens.”

**Vocabulary:** knit, warned, Baba (grandmother), mole, tunneling, burrowed, cozy, snowshoe rabbit, admire, wiggled, kickers, hedgehog, snuffling, jostled, prickles, commotion, swooped, grumbled, glinty talons, badger, diggers, waft, fox, investigate, trotting, drowsy, muzzle, lumbered, spied, plumped, bulged, meadow mouse, acorn, wriggled, enormous, force, scattered, silhouetted

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**Title:** Snow

**By:** Uri Shulevitz

**Caldecott Honor Book**

**First Line:** “The skies are gray.”

**Last Line:** “Snow,” said the boy.”

**Vocabulary:** rooftops, gray, snowflake, melt, umbrella, float, radio, television, circling, swirling, spinning, twirling, dancing, playing, falling

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**Title:** What Do Authors Do?

**By:** Eileen Christelow

“Young readers will appreciate the determination, patience, and hard work it takes to produce the books they enjoy, and will welcome the journey from idea to finished book.” – ***School Library Journal,* Best Books of the Year**

“Christelow’s picture book for older children captures such elusive elements as the creative impulse, as well as details of more practical matters like the editorial process. A witty, lucid account of the writer’s life.” – **ALA *Booklist* Children’s Editors’ Choice**

“Much of the pleasure of this information-packed book lies in the warm, unique way it addresses such problems as what authors do when they get stuck, how long it takes for a book to be illustrated, or to get through production. This book is wonderful.” – ***Kirkus Reviews***

**First Line:** “Authors get ideas for books at the strangest moments!”

**Last Line:** “But more important, authors are thinking about ideas for their next books!”

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**Title:** A River of Words The Story of William Carlos Williams

**Written by:** Jen Bryant

**Illustrated by:** Melissa Sweet

**Caldecott Honor Book**

**Book Jacket:** “When he wrote poems, he felt as free as the Passaic River as it rushed to the falls. Willie’s notebooks filled up, one after another.

 Willie’s words gave him freedom and peace, but he also knew he needed to earn a living. So when he grew up, he went off to medical school and became a doctor – one of the busiest men in town! Yet he never stopped writing poetry.

 In this picture book biography of poet William Carlos Williams, Jen Bryant’s engaging prose and Melissa Sweet’s stunning mixed-media illustrations celebrate the amazing man who found a way to earn a living and to honor his calling to be a poet.”