

Sources and Further Reading for

SHAKING THINGS UP

Written by Susan Hood, illustrated by Shadra Strickland, Hadley Hooper, Lisa Brown, Emily Winfield Martin, Sara Palacios, Erin K. Robinson, Sophie Blackall, Melissa Sweet, Oge Mora, Isabel Roxas, Julie Morstad, LeUyen Pham, and Selina Alko



A variety of sources were consulted to write this book, including websites, books, lectures, newspapers, and videos. Susan Hood also had conversations with museum and library experts and interviewed some of the subjects. You can find many of the women in the book profiled here:

- * Biography: [biography.com](https://www.biography.com)
- * Encyclopedia Britannica: [Britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com)
- * MAKERS, the largest video collection of women's stories: [makers.com](https://www.makers.com)
- * National Women's Hall of Fame: [womenofthehall.org](https://www.womenofthehall.org)
- * National Women's History Museum: [nwhm.org](https://www.nwhm.org)



MORE BOOKS, WEBSITES & VIDEOS

Molly Williams kindled a radical idea—that women were strong and brave enough to fight fires.

Note: Primary sources were used to correct the many errors circulating on the internet about Molly. For example, some say the famous snowstorm was the Blizzard of 1818, but Molly would have been seventy-one by then; the actual date is probably in the early 1780s.

www.nycfiremuseum.org

Sources are conflicted about whether Molly was an indentured servant or a slave. New York City Fire Museum records show she arrived in New York City as an indentured servant, where she married a slave. Many assume that would affect her status, but according to Dr. Leslie Harris, co-editor of *Slavery in New York*, there was no NY law enslaving spouses through marriage in the 1780s.

Sources: "As good a fire laddie as many of the boys who . . . bragged at being such.":
Dennis Smith's History of Firefighting in America (Doubleday, 1980)



Given the time period, most of what we know about Molly comes from researching her husband, Peter Williams Sr., who formed the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1796.

www.encyclopedia.jrank.org/articles/pages/4521/Williams-Peter-Sr-c-1755-1823.html

Protest and Progress: New York's First Black Episcopal Church Fights Racism
(*Studies in African American History and Culture*) by John Hewitt (Routledge, 2000)

Further Resources

Books:

Molly, by Golly! The Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter
by Dianne Ochiltree, illustrated by Kathleen Kemly (Calkins Creek, 2012); ages 6 and up

Websites:

"Heroes of Ground Zero," www.web.archive.org/web/20150503014952/https://pbs.org/wnet/heroes/history1.html

About the illustrator:

Shadra Strickland has won the Ezra Jacks Keats Award and was the recipient of the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent. She teaches illustration at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland, and is the illustrator of *Please, Louise* and *Loving vs. Virginia*. www.jumpin.shadrastrickland.com



Mary Anning dug up irrefutable evidence of evolution and extinction, shaking up the commonly accepted story of creation from the Bible.

Notes: Sources debate the dates of the ichthyosaur find and Mary's age at the time. Mary's brother found the skull in 1811, according to his son, but Mary found the entire skeleton in 1812. *The Western Flying Post* (a newspaper of the time) reported that the final excavation occurred in November 1812. Mary, born in May 1799, would have been thirteen years old.

The 1908 tongue twister "She sells seashells by the seashore," by Terry Sullivan, was inspired by Anning.

Sources: "The greatest fossilist the world ever knew.": Hugh Torrens, "Presidential Address: Mary Anning (1799–1847) of Lyme; 'The Greatest Fossilist the World Ever Knew'," *The British Journal for the History of Science*, www.jstor.org/stable/4027645

The Fossil Hunter: Dinosaurs, Evolution, and the Woman Whose Discoveries Changed the World
by Shelley Emling (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)

Further Resources

Books:

Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science by Jeannine Atkins (Atheneum, 2016); ages 10-12

Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon by Jeannine Atkins, illustrated by Michael Dooling (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999); ages 5-10

Stone Girl, Bone Girl: The Story of Mary Anning by Laurence Anholt, illustrated by Sheila Moxley (Orchard, 1998); ages 6-9

Websites:

BBC site for kids: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/mary_anning

“Mary Anning, an Amazing Fossil Hunter” by Sarah Zielinski, Smithsonian blog, January 5, 2010, www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/mary-anning-an-amazing-fossil-hunter-60691902

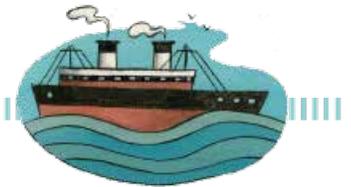
Lyme Regis Museum: “Mary Anning,” www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/collection/mary-anning

“The Greatest Fossil Hunter Ever Known,” Tom Feilden, August 29, 2009, www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/today/tom-feilden/2009/08/the_greatest_fossil_hunter_eve.html

“Mary Anning,” Famous Scientists, <https://www.famousscientists.org/?s=Mary+Anning>

About the illustrator:

Hadley Hooper is an illustrator and fine artist who lives in Denver, Colorado. She has illustrated *The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse* and *Another Way to Climb a Tree*. www.hadleyhooper.com



Nelly Bly upended the nineteenth-century notion that a woman’s place was in the home and helped blaze a path for a new style of newspaper reporting—investigative journalism.

Sources: “If you want to do it, you can do it. The question is, do you want to do it?": *Around the World in Seventy-Two Days and Other Writings* by Nellie Bly (Penguin, 2014)

Bylines: A Photobiography of Nellie Bly by Sue Macy (National Geographic, 2009); ages 10 and up

Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland’s History-Making Race Around the World by Matthew Goodman (Ballantine, 2013)

Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original “Girl” Reporter, Nellie Bly by Deborah Noyes (Viking, 2016); ages 10 and up

Further Resources**Books:**

The Daring Nellie Bly: America’s Star Reporter by Bonnie Christensen (Knopf, 2003); ages 5-8

Websites:

Download Nellie’s newspaper articles and her book *Around the World in Seventy-Two Days and Other Writings* online here: www.nellieblyonline.com/herwriting

“Nellie Bly’s Record-Breaking Trip Around the World Was, to Her Surprise, a Race,” by Marissa Fessenden, January 25, 2016, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/nellie-blys-record-breaking-trip-around-world-was-to-her-surprise-race-180957910/>

“American Experience: Around the World in 72 Days,” www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhxclOLRPSs

About the illustrator:

Lisa Brown is a New York Times bestselling illustrator, writer, and cartoonist. Some of her illustrated books for young people include *How to Be*, *Picture the Dead*, *Emily’s Blue Period*, *Mummy Cat*, and *Goldfish Ghost* by Lemony Snicket, to whom she is allegedly married.

Her book *The Airport Book* was awarded the 2017 California Book Award. She lives in San Francisco and teaches illustration at the California College of the Arts. www.americanchickens.com



Annette Kellerman championed athleticism for women’s health and self-confidence and popularized a new kind of swimsuit, freeing women from the confines of corsets and pantaloons.

Note: Sources disagree about Annette’s birth date and the date of her arrest. According to author Shana Corey, her birth certificate says July 6, 1886, and many other primary sources place her at Revere Beach in July 1908.

Sources: “I want to swim. And I can’t swim wearing more stuff than you hang on a clothesline.”: www.americanhistory.si.edu/object-project/ready-wear/bathing-suit

“A Historic Bathing Suit: Changing Modesty and the Functionality of Swimwear in the United States” by Emily Carpenter, School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, www.sohe.wisc.edu/research-development/centers-of-excellence/cdmc/textile-collection/textile-resources-2/featured-textiles-collection/historic-bathing-suit-changing-modesty-functionality-swimwear-united-states

Australian Dictionary of Biography entry by G. P. Walsh, www.adb.anu.edu.au/biography/kellermann-annette-marie-sarah-6911

Further Resources

Books:

Mermaid Queen by Shana Corey, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Scholastic, 2009); ages 4-8

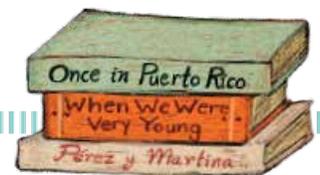
Websites:

News article about Annette’s arrest with photos showing the evolution of bathing suits from 1830 to 1928, “This Woman’s One-Piece Bathing Suit Got Her Arrested in 1907” by Kristin Toussaint, Boston.com, July 2, 2015, www.boston.com/news/history/2015/07/02/this-womans-one-piece-bathing-suit-got-her-arrested-in-1907

Film: A film about Kellerman, starring Esther Williams, *Million Dollar Mermaid*, directed by Mervyn LeRoy, 1952

About the illustrator:

Emily Winfield Martin is the author and illustrator of the New York Times bestselling picture book *The Wonderful Things You Will Be*. She lives amongst the fir trees in Portland, Oregon, and works in a studio of treasures and old wind-up toys. www.emilywinfieldmartin.com



Pura Belpré translated “English-only” libraries into multicultural centers that reflected the growing Spanish-speaking population in New York City. Her work validated the Hispanic experience and opened windows to the world for all.

Note: There is some discrepancy about Belpré’s birth date. It’s been reported as February 2, 1899, December 2, 1901, and February 2, 1903; the earliest date is the most accepted.

Sources: “I wished to be like Johnny Appleseed . . . to plant my story seeds across the land.”: *The Stories I Read to the Children: The Life and Writing of Pura Belpré, the Legendary Storyteller, Children’s Author, and New York Public Librarian*, edited by Lisa Sánchez González (Centro Press, 2013)

Guide to the Pura Belpré Papers, www.centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/faids/Belpre_Pura.pdf

Further Resources

Books:

The Storyteller’s Candle/La velita de los cuentos by Lucía González, illustrated by Lulu Delacre (Lee & Low, 2008); ages 5-8

Websites:

Pura Belpré Award, www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belprepast

Centro Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Featured Galleries; Pura Belpré, www.centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/digitalarchive/index.php/Gallery/16

“Pura Belpré, in Her Own Words: NYPL Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month” by Jean Harripersaud, New York Public Library, September 13, 2013, www.nypl.org/blog/2013/09/13/pura-belpre-hispanic-heritage-month

Pura Belpré Documentary and Teaching Guide, www.centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/education/pura-belpre%C3%A9-documentary-teaching-guide

About the illustrator:

Sara Palacios earned her BFA and MFA in illustration at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. The recipient of the 2012 Pura Belpré Illustration Honor Award, her previous picture book illustrations include *Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match* and *Agnes and Clarabelle*. She lives in San Francisco, California. www.sarapalaciosillustrations.com



Frida Kahlo illustrated that disability doesn’t have to destroy dreams.

Sources: “I am broken. But I am happy to be alive as long as I can paint.”; “I am the subject I know best.”; “I paint my own reality.”. “Mexican Autobiography,” Time Magazine (April 27, 1953)

“Frailty, thy name is woman” from Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo by Hayden Herrera (Harper, 1983)

Further Resources

Books:

Frida by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Ana Juan (Arthur A. Levine, 2002); ages 4-8

Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Their Lives and Ideas by Carol Sabbeth (Chicago Review, 2005); ages 9 and up

Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos by Monica Brown, illustrated by John Parra (NorthSouth, 2017); ages 4-8

Viva Frida by Yuyi Morales, photography by Tim O’Meara (Roaring Brook, 2014); ages 4-8

Websites:

Wonderful photos of Frida at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art exhibit, www.aaa.si.edu/exhibitions/frida-kahlo

Frida Kahlo and Contemporary Thoughts, www.fridakahlo.it

Parents' Guide to The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo, a film by Amy Stechler, www.pbs.org/weta/fridakahlo/guides/parents_act1.html

About the illustrator:

Erin K. Robinson is a fashion designer by trade and a trained fine artist from Parsons School of Design and the Corcoran School of Art. She has had her illustrations featured in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Village Voice*, among other publications. She is currently working on her first illustrated book, a period piece focused on the civil rights movement. www.brooklyndolly.com



Jacqueline and Eileen Nearne are testaments to the courage of young women who resisted the horrors of Nazism in World War II.

Source: "One of the best we have had."; "It was a life in the shadows, but . . . I was suited for it. After the war, I missed it." *A Cool and Lonely Courage: The Untold Story of Sister Spies in Occupied France* by Susan Ottaway (Little, Brown, 2013)

1947 British docudrama film all about SOE agents set in France after the Liberation, starring Jacqueline Nearne herself! *School for Danger*, www.wn.com/jacqueline_nearne

Further Reading**Websites:**

"Eileen Nearne, Wartime Spy, Dies at 89" obituary by John F. Burns, *New York Times*, September 21, 2010, www.nytimes.com/2010/09/22/world/europe/22nearne.html?mcubz=0

"Files Reveal Bravery of WWII Spy Eileen Nearne" by Laura Joint, BBC, September 21, 2010, http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/devon/hi/people_and_places/newsid_9019000/9019821.stm

"Sister Secret Agents in World War II Fought Alongside Men" by Simon Worrall, *National Geographic* interview with the author of *A Cool and Lonely Courage*, November 21, 2014, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/11/141119-special-operations-executive-soe-world-war-women-ngbooktalk/>

"My Aunts, the Unlikely Spies" by Joanna Moorhead, *Guardian*, March 30, 2013, niece's account of discovering her aunts' mysterious past, www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/mar/30/my-aunts-the-unlikely-spies

About the illustrator:

Sophie Blackall is a Caldecott Medal-winning illustrator from Australia and the granddaughter of a spy, who now lives in Brooklyn, New York. She's illustrated more than thirty picture books, including *A Voyage in the Clouds* and *Finding Winnie*. www.sophieblackall.com



Frances Moore Lappé stirred the pot, changing forever the way Americans eat in an effort to solve world hunger and preserve the planet.

Sources: “Every choice we make can be a celebration of the world we want.”: interview with Frances Moore Lappé

Diet for a Small Planet, 20th anniversary edition, by Frances Moore Lappé (Ballantine, 2011)

Further Resources

Websites:

Frances Moore Lappé biography, Small Planet Institute, www.smallplanet.org/frances-moore-lappe

“Why Are We Creating a World That No One Wants?” Frances Moore Lappé’s TED Talk, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_Lw5lt3J6c

“If You Think Eating Is a Political Act, Say Thanks to Frances Moore Lappé” by Allison Aubrey, NPR, September 22, 2016, www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/09/22/494984095/70s-food-movement-promoted-benefits-of-plant-based-diet

“Interview Transcript: Frances Moore Lappé on Why She’s Reinventing Herself,” interview with Kathy Kiely of Bill Moyers, November 11, 2016, <http://billmoyers.com/story/diet-democracy-frances-moore-lappe-re-inventing>

About the illustrator:

Melissa Sweet is the illustrator of more than one hundred books, including *Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women* and *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909*. Her most recent book, *Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White*, was a New York Times bestseller. www.melissasweet.net

Ruby Bridges schooled Jim Crow America by making the Supreme Court’s landmark decision to end segregation a reality.

Sources: “Kids know nothing about racism. It’s adults [who] pass it on to kids.”

“Ruby Bridges Shares the Key to Overcoming Racism,” www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvW10_kvKDA

“Don’t look back.” *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges (Scholastic, 1999); ages 8–12

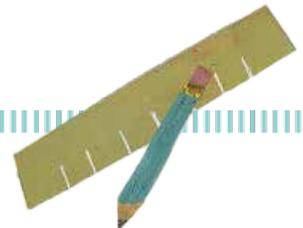
“never missed a day.” “Ruby Bridges: The Story,” www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jlg3jP1r-zM

Further Resources

Books:

The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Bloomsbury, 2016); ages 6–9

Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story by Ruby Bridges (Scholastic, 2009); ages 4–8



The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles, illustrated by George Ford (Scholastic, 2010); ages 4-8

Websites:

“Q&A with Ruby Bridges,” Junior Scholastic, <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/videos/teaching-content/ruby-bridges-interview/>

“Ruby Bridges: A Simple Act of Courage,” <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/ruby-bridges/ruby-bridges-for-kids.htm>

“Civil Rights Pioneer on First-Grade Teacher: ‘She Showed Me Her Heart’,” www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwb5xsRO1yc

“Ruby Bridges, Rockwell Muse, Goes Back to School,” www.cbsnews.com/news/ruby-bridges-rockwell-muse-goes-back-to-school

“My Story: Mrs. Lucille Bridges,” interview with Ruby’s mother, www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoJ1NXclO4w

About the illustrator:

Oge Mora graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in illustration. She’s the author and illustrator of the forthcoming picture book *Thank You, Omu!* She enjoys creating warm stories that celebrate people coming together. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island. www.ogemora.com



Mae Jemison launched African American women into space and now advocates for minorities in math and science.

Sources: “*Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.*”: “Mae Jemison: The First African American Woman in Space and First Real Astronaut on Star Trek” by Jolene Creighton, December 21, 2015, <https://futurism.com/mae-jemison-the-first-african-american-woman-in-space-and-first-real-astronaut-on-star-trek>

“*Don’t you mean a nurse?*”; “*scaredy cat*”: *Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life* by Mae Jemison (Scholastic, 2001); ages 12 and up

“*I remember being . . . irritated that there were no women astronauts.*” www.makers.com/mae-jemison

Further Resources

Books:

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed, illustrated by Stasia Burrington (HarperCollins, 2018); ages 4-8

Websites:

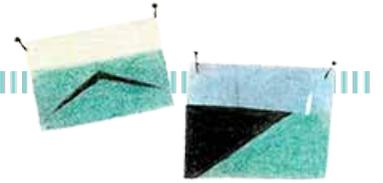
Facts about *Endeavour* and Jemison’s flight: www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/archives/sts-47.html

[Mae Jemison’s website, www.drmae.com](http://www.drmae.com)

The Earth We Share, Mae Jemison’s international science camp, <http://jemisonfoundation.org/the-earth-we-share/>

About the illustrator:

Isabel Roxas was born in the Philippines and now lives in New York, where she writes and illustrates stories, designs books, and works on ceramics. She's the illustrator for *Let Me Finish!* and *Day at the Market*. Her latest picture book is *The Littlest Viking*. www.studioroxas.com



Maya Lin broke new ground with her modern vision in architecture.

Sources: "To fly we have to have resistance.": *And I Quote: The Definitive Collection of Quotes, Sayings, and Jokes for the Contemporary Speechmaker*, revised edition by Ashton Applewhite, William R. Evans III, and Andrew Frothingham (Thomas Dunne, 2003)

"I imagined taking a knife and cutting into the earth.": "Making the Memorial" by Maya Lin, *New York Review of Books*, November 2, 2000, www.nybooks.com/articles/2000/11/02/making-the-memorial

Maya Lin: Architect and Artist by Mary Malone (Enslow, 1995); ages 9 and up

Further Resources**Books:**

Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines by Jeanne Walker Harvey, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk (Henry Holt, 2017); ages 4-8

Websites:

Video tour of the memorial, "Maya Lin, Vietnam Veterans Memorial," www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuxjTxxQUts&t=79s

See more about the memorial and Maya's other work from the National Endowment for the Arts, "Maya Lin," www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsrLVPu5otI

About the illustrator:

Julie Morstad is an award-winning illustrator and artist who lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with her family. Her picture books include *Today*, *How To*, and *Bloom*. www.juliemorstad.com



Angela Zhang gave American medicine a shot in the arm, creating a possible cure for cancer.

Sources: "Failure is just an opportunity in disguise. You learn so much more from your 'failures' than anything else.": interview with Angela Zhang

Further Resources**Websites:**

"Breaking Down the Unknown," Angela Zhang at TEDxTeen, www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pBLPrWle7g

"Teen Creates Cancer-Fighting Technique," *CBS Evening News with Scott Pelly*, www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9NvBcyN7qE&feature=player_embedded

“Cancer-Fighting Harvard Student Looks to a Future in STEM” by Mary Cirincione, *U.S. News & World Report*, May 12, 2015, <https://www.usnews.com/news/the-next-generation-of-stem/articles/2015/05/12/cancer-fighting-harvard-student-looks-forward-to-a-long-future-in-stem>

About the illustrator:

LeUyen Pham is an author-illustrator whose work includes *All the Things I Love About You and Big Sister*, *Little Sister*. Her illustration work also includes *Grace for President* and *Princess in Black*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two sons. www.leuyenpham.com



Malala Yousafzai risked death to teach the world to invest in education for girls.

Note: In 2017, the Malala Fund estimated that more than thirty-two million girls do not attend primary school and ninety-eight million are missing out on a secondary education.

Sources: “*There’s a moment when you have to choose whether to be silent or to stand up.*”: *He Named Me Malala*, directed by Davis Guggenheim, 2015

“*They are misusing the name of Islam*”: “Malala: We Must Talk to the Taliban to Get Peace,” BBC News, October 7, 2013, www.bbc.com/news/world-24333273

“*first word of the Holy Quran is . . . read*”; “*I am those sixty-six million girls who are deprived of education*”: Malala Yousafzai—Nobel Lecture, <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2014/yousafzai/lecture/>

“*Strength, power, and courage were born.*” “Malala at Youth Takeover Event,” July 12, 2013, www.un.org/press/en/2013/dev3009.doc.htm

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb (Little, Brown, 2013). Note: There are two young readers’ editions, in English and Spanish. (Little, Brown Books for Your Readers, 2014); ages 11-17

Further Resources

Books:

For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai’s Story by Rebecca Langston-George, illustrated by Janna Bock (Capstone Press, 2016); ages 8-11

Free as a Bird: The Story of Malala by Lina Maslo (Balzer + Bray, 2018); ages 4-8

Malala’s Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Kerascoët (Little, Brown, 2017); ages 5–8

Websites:

Read Malala’s diary for the BBC, “Moving Moments from Malala’s BBC Diary,” October 10, 2014, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29565738

Find out more about the Malala Fund, www.malala.org

About the illustrator:

Selina Alko is an author-illustrator living in Brooklyn, New York, who enjoys reading, collaging in her sketchbook, and dance-walking in Prospect Park. She frequently collaborates with her husband, author-illustrator Sean Qualls, for picture books such as *The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage* and *Why Am I Me?* by Paige Britt. www.selinaalko.com



POETRY NOTES



The poems in this book *Shaking Things Up* use a variety of simple poetry forms—alphabet poems, concrete poems, limericks—chosen to inspire young readers to compose their own poetry. Here’s more about each form:

ALPHABET POEM

“The Storyteller” about Pura Belpré uses words with initial letters from A to Z. A similar type of poem is an acrostic, in which the first letter of each line spells out the subject of the poem when read from top to bottom.

CONCRETE POEM

“Buried Treasure” about Mary Anning is a concrete poem or a shape poem. Its words are arranged to form a picture of an object or person in the poem. It can rhyme or not.

COUPLET

“Woman of the World” about Nellie Bly uses both rhyming quatrains (four-line stanzas) and couplets (two-line stanzas).

CUMULATIVE POEM

“Full Circle” about Frances Moore Lappé is an abbreviated version of a cumulative poem in the spirit of “This Is the House That Jack Built.” Cumulative poems use repetition and refrains and usually go full circle, ending with a repetition of the first line.

ELEGY

An elegy like “A New Vision” about Maya Lin is used to praise or mourn the dead, so it often has a sad or somber tone, but no set form.

FREE VERSE

Many of the poems (“Books, Not Bullets” about Malala Yousafzai, “Broken” about Frida Kahlo, “Lift-off” about Mae Jemison, and “Secret Agent Sisters” about Jacqueline and Eileen Nearne) are told in free verse, which does not rhyme and has no set meter. “Secret Agent Sisters” is a nod to poet E. E. Cummings’s experiments with lowercase letters, parentheses, and spaces. Cummings himself was accused of being a spy in France and was imprisoned during World War I.

LIMERICK

“Turning the Tide” about Annette Kellerman is a limerick. It has five-line stanzas with a rhyme scheme of aab-ba. It usually has a humorous theme.

PERSONA POEM

“Break It Down” about Angela Zhang is both a persona poem, written from the point of view of the subject, and a poem of address, in which the writer speaks to a person or object. In this poem, Angela addresses Science.

QUATRAIN

“Taking the Heat” about Molly Williams uses quatrains—one or more four-line stanzas. Some rhyme; some don’t. This one’s rhyme scheme is abcb.

QUESTION POEM

“A New School” about Ruby Bridges is a question poem, in which a series of questions build to dramatic effect.

SPINE POEM

The stack of books in the art of “The Storyteller” about Pura Belpré, illustrates a spine poem—a collection of book titles arranged to form a poem.