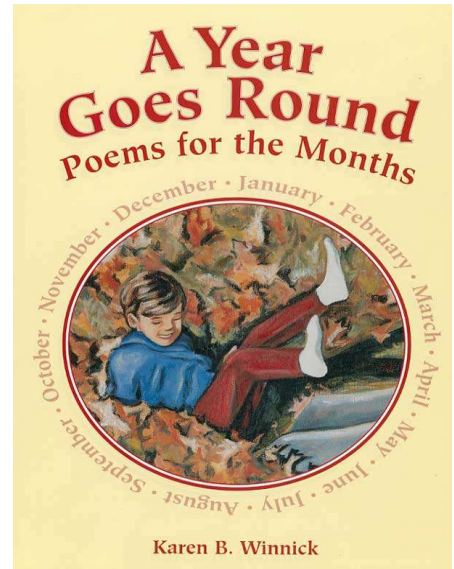


Activities for
A YEAR GOES ROUND: POEMS FOR THE MONTHS

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978-1563978982, Boyds Mills Press

Studying poetry for many years with Myra Cohn Livingston, I came to understand that much of poetry was observing the world and expressing through the tools of poetry feelings about that world.

When I write poems I observe the world around me. How do I feel about what I see, hear, touch, feel? These are the thoughts and emotions I try to put into a poem. In the twenty-four poems and paintings in *A YEAR GOES ROUND*, I tried to capture the wonder and delight, the joys and cares that each month brings.



Activities to do and things to think about after reading *A YEAR GOES ROUND*:

Read one poem every month. Talk about what that month brings to mind. Make a list. Now write your own poem choosing one or some of the things on the list. At the end of the year write a poem about your favorite month.

Make your own calendar for the year. Take twelve sheets of paper and write the name of each month at the top. Draw a picture on each page. Or you could write a line for each month. Find a calendar to see how to make a box to write the days of the week and number the days. Mark important dates in your life—birthdays, holidays, etc. Use it every day!

April is Poetry Month. Plan different ways to celebrate poetry during the month. Invite a poet to visit your class and share poems with you. Choose a day to read only funny poems or poems about animals. Listen to poems

on audio tapes. Work with your class to create a poetry magazine. Read a novel in verse. Research and makes a list of all the different kinds of poetry forms - haiku, sonnets etc. Write a letter to your favorite poet.

Write a story for each month!

Winter Beach: January

Have you ever been to the beach in the winter? Or by a lake? How is it different in the winter from the summer? Compare and write about each.

Snow Angel: February

What kinds of things do you do outside when it snows? Pick one and write a poem about it. If you live in a place where it never snows, write about what February is like where you live. How is it different from the other months?

Quiet Morning: March

What day of the week presents you with a quiet morning? Write about what you do. Describe what you do when it rains outside and you stay inside the house.

Tryouts: April

Have you ever tried out-for a sport, a play, a dance recital? Write about how you felt. Did you make the team, get a part in the play? How did you feel?

Parade: May

Have you ever watched a parade? Been in a parade? Write about what you remember. Make up your own parade. Where is it? What are you celebrating? What kinds of costumes do the participants wear? Are they people or animals? If animals, what kinds?

Swinging: June

Swinging high up gives you a whole new view of things. Imagine you are standing on top of a skyscraper, or a mountaintop or up in a plane. What do you see down below? How does it feel to be up so high? How does itfeel when you come down to earth? Write about it.





The Wave: July

Imagine you are being chased. By what? An erupting volcano? A big animal? How do you get away? Do you run? Ride? Fly? Skate away? Or do you hide? Write about what happens. Don't forget to say if you got away!

City Summer: August

How does a summer in the city differ from a summer spent in the country? Imagine and write about each. Where and how did you spend your summer?

Dodge Ball: September

What do you do at recess? What kind of games do you play? Does it take skill? Is it fun? How many kids can play? Boys and girls? Describe how you like to spend recess.

Disguises: October

Create an imaginary costume for yourself. Who will you be? Draw a picture of you in your costume. Now that you are someone or something else, what happens? Write a story about it.



Feeding the Goose: November

Have you ever found a bird or animal in the wild that was injured or needed care? Did you care for it? What did you feed it? Have you ever fed geese, ducks, and squirrels in the park? Write about the experience.

On Stage: December

Have you ever been in a play? Were you nervous? Try to remember how you felt. What was it like being up on stage? Did you remember your lines? The words to a song? Did you dance? Wear a costume? Write about the experience.