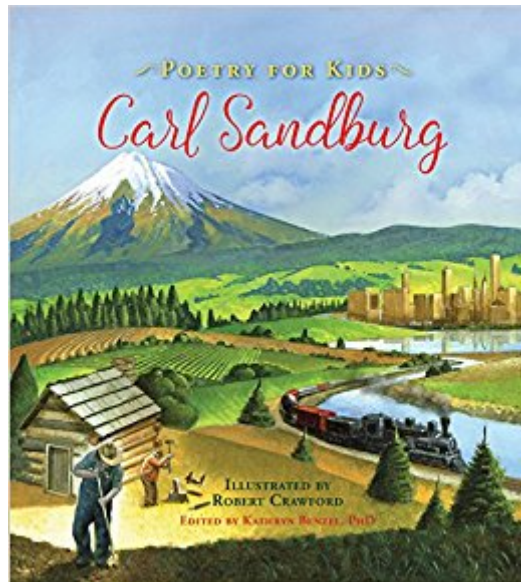


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# Poetry For Kids: Carl Sandburg



## Synopsis

Professor and scholar Kate Benzel has carefully chosen 35 poems of interest to children and their families. Carl Sandburg divides the poems into poems about people, and poems about people. You'll find classics including "Young Bullfrogs," "Shenandoah", "Jazz Fantasia", "Fog", and 31 more of Sandburg's favorite and most accessible works. Each poem is beautifully illustrated by the award-winning Robert Crawford. This gentle introduction includes commentary, definitions of key words, and an introduction to the poet's life, plus a final synopsis of the author's interpretation of the pieces.

## Book Information

Series: Poetry for Kids

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: MoonDance Press (April 3, 2017)

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Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.5 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #495,671 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #153 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary #843 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #2009 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Following its treatment of Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson, Sterling adds two more titles on American masters to the Poetry for Young People series: Carl Sandburg, edited by Frances Schoonmaker Bolin, illustrated by Steven Arcella, and Edgar Allan Poe, edited by Brod Bagert, illustrated byCarolynn Cobleigh. Each poem is accompanied by definitions of difficult words (\$14.95 each, 48p, ages 7-up ISBN 0-8069-0818-1; -0820-3 May).Copyright 1995 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The poems are lively, vibrant and contemplative: full of alliteration and repetition, they are

both entertaining and thought-provoking; - The Guardian Best Books Guide 2017

Beautifully illustrated. Wonderful book for children.

Good quality - just as described.

"I am the people - the mob - the crowd - the mass." Younger readers will be introduced to Carl Sandburg, a poet for the people. This is a collection of 35 of his poems and is just one book in the Poetry for Kids series. Professor Kate Benzel has chosen the poems for this amazing collection and award-winning illustrator Robert Crawford has done a magnificent job of visually making them come alive. Commentary on the poems, definition of key words that may be difficult for children to comprehend, and a lovely bio of the poet's life is included. I love the segment, "What Carl Was Thinking" at the end of the book that exposes the author's thoughts and intentions as he wrote each poem. I was very impressed with the book and feel it would be one you would be proud to add to your poetry collection. Our children need exposure to great classic poet's work and this is the perfect book to do just that. I highly recommend it.

The beauty of poetic language and imagery can spur the imagination of young children. It is the mystery of poetry that it can inspire and elicit emotion independent of intellectual 'understanding'. We don't have to know how a poem works, or its every reference, to be moved. A poem is not a riddle to solve. A poem 'is'. The MoonDance Press Poetry for Kids series provides a wonderful resource for introducing children to the magic of America's great poets. The latest book in the Poetry for Kids series is Carl Sandburg. Thirty-five age-appropriate poems for children age 8 to 13, selected by Kathryn Benzel, are accompanied by colorful original illustrations by Robert Crawford. The Introduction is a brief biography of Carl Sandburg. He was born in 1878 to immigrant parents in Galesburg, Illinois. Typical of his generation and class, after he left school after 8th grade to work at menial jobs. He moved to Chicago before hopping a boxcar at age 19 to see America. Sandburg's poems are 'of the people,' from the prairie to the city factories, embracing his experience of American life from Reconstruction to the Depression, through two world wars to the invention of television and transcontinental flight. The poems are divided thematically: poems about people and poems about places. Poems about people include interactions with the natural and human-made world. A boy studies nature in Young Bullfrogs, while I Am the People, the Mob extols workers and creators, the common people who make the world go. Jazz Fantasia celebrates the

free-form quintessential American music while Buffalo Bill recalls a boy's idolization of the Old West. Poems about places begins with Sandburg's most famous poem, Fog, and includes Limited about the 'crack train' of the nation carrying passengers who don't look beyond their next stop. River Roads, Valley Song, and Between Two Hills--poems about the country--are balanced by Street Window, The Skyscraper Loves Night, and a selection from 'Smoke and Steel.' The illustrations by Robert Crawford are beautiful: A man and his dog under the flowering fuchsia canopy of a crab-apple tree at dusk; a bright Jack-o-lantern at night; a girl on a pier under a purple sky reflected upon the lake. Included are helps for parents or young readers: Explanations for Understanding offers definitions and historical information, and "What Carl Was Thinking" has a brief description of the poem's meaning or origin. Poetry for Kids Emily Dickinson was published in October 2016. These are wonderful books for the classroom, for family reading, or to gift to older children. I received a free ebook from the publisher through Edelweiss in exchange for a fair and unbiased review.

Introducing poetry to kids is not an easy task. As a retired educator, I welcome any books that make it easier to inspire young people to explore poetry. This book is so beautifully illustrated that I'm certain it will be picked up. The poetry included is excellent. That being said, I wish there were more direction in helping the young person to interpret the poetry for more than just face value. After the poems, a section for what Sandburg was thinking in writing each poem provides a little background, but those entries tend to be superficial at best. Without some interpretive help, poetry is simply words. This book, like the others in the series, is a great start, but it could do so much more. A thought provoking question or two after each entry might spark a student response.

This moving biography of poet Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) is told in an upbeat anecdotal style. Through a series of brief vignettes, readers learn about Sandburg's upbringing in Galesburg, Illinois, his life as a poet, his loves, political views, etc. There is also a nice slice of his superb poetry. Sandburg was not just a poet, but also a noted writer, musician, and thinker. He was also a man of certain contradictions. A near-pacifist, Sandburg was a (Spanish-American) war veteran who later supported U.S. involvement in two World Wars. A liberal supporter of Swedish-style free socialism, Sandburg had many Republican admirers due to his excellent biographies on Abraham Lincoln. Besides, Sandburg's support for such then-radical ideas as old age pensions, worker compensation, and a minimum wage soon became mainstream. These pages also feature many interesting tidbits, including his days as a teenage railroad hobo and the gold medal (not a nobel) he received from King Gustav of Sweden. Sandburg's poetry has faded somewhat in popularity, but

was quite strong when this book arrived in 1961. Author Harry Golden Sr. (1902-81) applies the same anecdotal style from his newspaper and many books (Only in America, For Two Cents Plain, etc.) in these pages. The effect is a nicely readable, informative look at one of the nation's greatest poets.

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