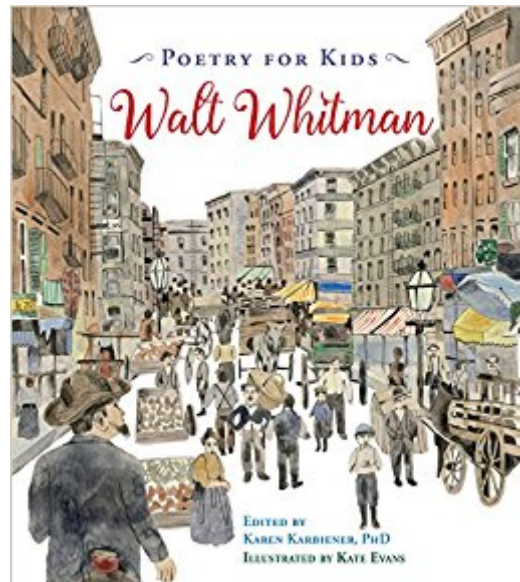


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# Poetry For Kids: Walt Whitman



## Synopsis

Carefully chosen for kids, 35 illustrated poems are presented and explained by New York University professor Karen Karbenier, PhD, a Whitman expert. Walt Whitman includes enlightening commentary for each poem, definitions of key words, and a foreword by the expert. Vibrant illustrations invigorate the poetry. Starting off with "I Hear America Singing," the collection includes excerpts from "Song of Myself," "O Captain! My Captain!", poems from Leaves of Grass, and many more thought-provoking, descriptive, and kid-friendly selections.

## Book Information

Series: Poetry for Kids

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #125,335 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections](#) #48 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary](#) #783 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

"Weds top-notch scholarship with visual artistry....affording readers the rare pleasure of seeing Whitman's seemingly endless lines run clear across the page, unenjambéd as he intended....this dynamic volume proves a seminal addition to any library."--Kirkus Reviews - Kirkus Reviews; Reveals the political and social atmosphere of nineteenth-century America. Whitman's poetry speaks across the decades and seems very pertinent to our world today. His poetry fosters the ideas of equality, tolerance and love for our fellow humans; - The Guardian Best Books Guide 2017

Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was a celebrated American poet, chiefly known for his controversial and

highly original poetry collection *Leaves of Grass*. Born in 1819 on Long Island, he worked as a journalist, teacher, government clerk, and volunteer nurse during the Civil War. Whitman published his seminal work in 1855 with his own money, soon becoming one of the world's most popular and influential poets. After suffering a stroke in 1873 he retired to Camden, New Jersey, where he died nineteen years later—just two months after the final edition of *Leaves of Grass* appeared on sale. Karen Karbiener is a Whitman scholar at New York University. She has published widely on Whitman's life and work, and edited *Leaves of Grass: First and Death-bed Editions* for Barnes & Noble Classics. She is a recognized public scholar and has been featured in radio, television, and online programs, authored two audio books on Whitman's cultural legacy, and hosts New York City's annual "Song of Myself" Marathon. She lives in New York City. Freelance illustrator and fine artist Kate Evans has worked for many high-profile clients, including Random House, HarperCollins, *V* and *A Magazine*, *The Guardian*, and *National Geographic*. Her illustrations have been published in many countries around the world. Combining delicate line drawings with watercolor washes, Kate produces images that reflect the richness of their subject matter. Her illustrations suggest subtle emotional states and have been frequently used by publishers to capture the complexity of particular places and situations.

Bought this to add poetry to the school library. Love the old school poetry.

Excellent introduction to young readers....

This beautiful book of poems is a perfect introduction to the famous American poet Walt Whitman. There are 35 carefully chosen poems for kids to enjoy. The poems are presented and explained by New York University professor Karen Karbiener, PhD, a Whitman expert. Each poem features commentary on its content, definitions of perhaps unfamiliar words to a child, and an enlightening forward that gives educational background on the poet himself and how the book is designed. The illustrations make the words come alive contributing a visual form of poetry themselves. The collection features a variety of poems that are kid-friendly and describe life as Walt Whitman saw it. I love at the end of the book a section entitled "What Walt Was Thinking". Here is a taste of one of his poems...*A Woman Waits For Me* (excerpt) They are not one jot less than I am, They are tanned in the face by shining suns and blowing winds, Their flesh has the old divine suppleness and strength, They know how to swim, row, ride, wrestle, shoot, run, strike, retreat, advance, resist, defend themselves, They are ultimate in their own right -- they are calm, clear, well-possess'd of

themselves. Jot: bit (Walt is thinking of tiny drips from his pen) Suppleness: flexibility At the back of the book from: *What Walt was Thinking* *A Woman Waits for Me* (1860): Women's rights and abolitionism were two revolutionary movements that developed simultaneously in the mid-nineteenth century. In his journalism, Walt had long defended women's rights for fair salaries and equal treatment. This poem celebrates their strength of character as well as their physical bodies. His ideas were considered so progressive that this pen was banned from publication in 1882. I highly recommend this book (and this series). It would be a beautiful collection to own and what better month to start than April when we celebrate National Poetry Month.

Was Walt Whitman the greatest American poet? I don't know if you can pick a single greatest, but there is no question he is one of the greatest and most influential American poets. In *Poetry for Kids: Walt Whitman*, Karen Karbiener has collected selections and excerpts from Whitman's poems, illustrated by Kate Evans, to introduce young readers to Whitman's memorable poetry. Whitman's 19th century English may be off-putting to 21st century readers, but I don't believe it's inaccessible. Karbiener helps with the language by providing brief glossaries for each poem, defining words that are more obscure or out of common usage. Whether a child reads these on her own, or listens as a parent or older reader reads aloud, the beauty and rhythms of Whitman's work will come through. The spare but colorful illustrations capture the time period of Whitman's writing, and support the poems without upstaging them. This is a beautiful book which should encourage kids to read and reread Whitman's poetry. Thanks to Edelweiss and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

'*Poetry for Kids: Walt Whitman*' by Walt Whitman with editing by Karen Karbiener, PhD and illustrations by Kate Evans is a well curated introduction to the life and work of one of America's greatest poets. The included poems are broken up by section based on phases in Whitman's life. There are poems about his childhood, his time as a wound-dresser in the Civil War and as an older man. The poems are many times excerpts and include annotations to explain difficult phrases (or ones that the poet made up). There are poems which show that he wanted to abolish slavery and that he supported the rights of women. At the end of the book, there is a section telling when the poem was written and what Walt Whitman was likely thinking. Each page also has illustrations that fit with the poem and the poet's age. It's a really good introduction to this great poet. His style may seem atypical for children since his poems don't have meter or rhyming, but I think it's really well presented. I received a review copy of this ebook from Moondance Press, Quarto Publishing Group,

and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this ebook.

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 Whitman was thinking in writing each poem provides a little background, but those entries tend to be superficial at best. Without some interpretive help, *The Learned Astronomer* is not a "Wow!" moment; without knowing that Whitman was mourning the death of Abraham Lincoln, "O, Captain, My Captain" could be any ship's leader. This book 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

Wonderful selection of Whitman's work to introduce anyone (both young and not-so-young) to his poetry. The illustrations are gorgeous! I especially like the section in the back in which Dr Karbiener gives a brief backstory of each piece.

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