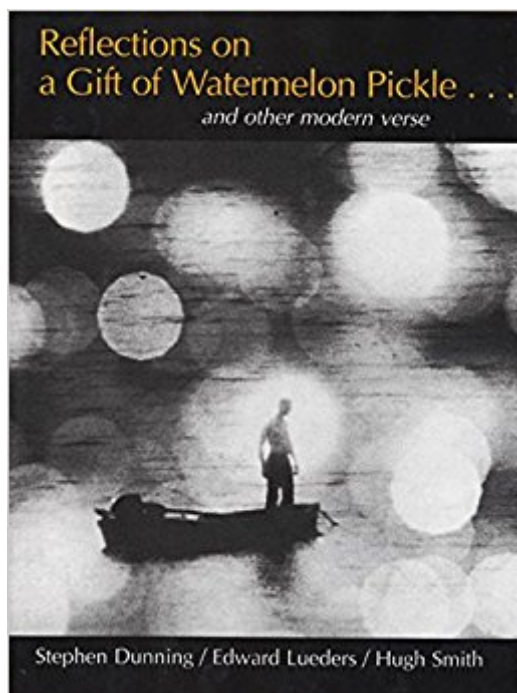


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# Reflections On A Gift Of Watermelon Pickle



## Synopsis

Here are modern poems chosen for their individual excellence and their special appeal to young people. Exciting photographs accent the contemporary tone of the collection. From lighthearted Phyllis Mc-Ginley to pessimistic Ezra Pound; from the lyricism of Edna St. Vincent Millay to the vigor of Lawrence Ferlinghette; from Carl Sandburg on loneliness to Paul Dehn on the bomb -- such is the range. The little known or unknown poet and the widely recognized appear side by side. Whatever the subject matter -- pheasant or flying saucer; lapping lake water or sonic boom; a deer hunt, a basketball, or a bud -- it is all poetry reflecting today's images and today's moods. The editors spent several years bringing together 1200 poems they considered fine enough to include, then slowly and carefully sifted out of 114 which appear in the book. Readers of *Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle . . . and Other Modern Verse* may well be tempted by Eve Merriam's suggestion in "How to Eat a Poem" Don't be polite. Bite in. Pick it up with your fingers and lick. The juice that may run down your chin. It is ready and ripe now, whenever you are.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

I had a copy that been loaned out and never returned and I was pretty sad about it. I was telling another friend its story (That I had purchased it in the late 60's and it had survived many moves, even one halfway across the world!) I wasn't sure if it was even replaceable. My dear friend found it on and it is exactly the same as the one I had. Yes, it is new but I am so happy to have this on my shelf again.

Unlike other reviews I've attempted, this one really matters for a host of reasons. For one thing I've read the book. Also I love the book. I value it enough to want to convey the "essence of it" and I'm recommending it to friends and you know how that goes. Say one thing a little off and a recommended book is never looked at again. So with no small amount of weight here on my shoulders I will try and tell a reader what this book was like for me. Essentially I probably formed all my beliefs and values in the late 60's and early 70's- I think we should make wax crayon candles and frog plaster casts for our tables, I'm really into trolls though I no longer have or collect them, I recall thinking Woodstock sounded like the best idea ever except I'm not so much into mud. This book was published in 1966 and I got my hands on it in 1968 in a book order from Scholastic that I ordered from school. Likely I ordered not knowing what I was asking for, as I wasn't a particularly good reader then. But I got it and this was how I DISCOVERED POETRY. If I can be forgiven it's rather like your first love. You see the world through a different lens ever after. I know my peers were grappling with their own issues but I was in a life that needed poetic vision and I loved that this collection spurs you into thinking about nuclear winter, jazz, loneliness, kittens. It was just great. Vietnam body and injury count numbers appeared nightly on the TV then and I had friends with older brothers at war, so I think I was thinking rather much on life. The collection contains poems by Yvor Winters, Ferlinghetti, cumming, Hughes, Roethke, Leuders (who put it together and you must get his "Clam Lake Papers"-trust me) and so many writers that I read them from this initial introduction all my life. Talk about turning on... So what can I quote....well amazingly most of it: how about: Unfolding Bud One is amazed By a water-lily bud Unfolding With each passing day, Taking on a richer color And new dimensions. One is not amazed, At first glance, By a poem, Which is tight-closed As a tiny bud. Yet one is surprised To see the poem Gradually unfolding, Revealing its rich inner self As one reads it Again And over again. Naoshi Koriyama Wish I wrote like that one day out of my life. So if you work your way through the collection it's rather a soul opening experience. And perhaps a lifelong affiliation I have with the text has allowed me to use it to propel this vision of "what poetry is.." into teaching in my classrooms. When I read the book as I was doing this morning waiting for the power to be reinstated after my husband forgot to get the bill in the mail...again...which is off topic...but aggravating...I was thinking of how I feel sad sometimes I grew up. Well you miss those times in some ways...as I'm not really happy in the Bush vision. Teaching was fun, and now is hide and still try to make it fun. These poems coalesce for me a time spent down by the pond, or weaving my daisy chains ( I'm still rather into my daisy chains) Again I recommend it to anyone who can read this review to the end and not declare the reviewer is on a liberal toot...tho it might be that. Yeah it is I guess that... I do think in the world today the values

contained in this book, if one can call it that, prefer "voice", you know how we liberals are, anyway it does talk to social action, ecology, compassion, veneration of soul. And we know how that's going these days....it's not corporate or commercial, upper classed enough or botoxed either. It's a book of a time I'd like to scoop up and dust this world in again like luscious powdered sugar. So if you get it write a review if you can capture the essence of why it changed my life for me.

loved this as a preteen myself, got it for my 12 yo grandson. We are using it to have discussions on the various poems. He thinks they are dated. (1967 vs today) but I point out how the subject matter is still pertinent today, and we debate from there. I am trying to encourage his poetry writing; he is very good at all creative writing, but prefers science. Gotta be well-rounded.

I love this little book of poetry. I was originally given this book by a dear friend over 40 years ago. As so many of us do we lend wonderful books, never to see them again, thus my book. I recently checked to see if I could replace my, never forgotten book, and hooray! I love my little book of poetry just as much as ever, and am so happy to have reclaimed my treasure. I most highly recommend this book. Get it--you won't regret it.

I had bought this book many years ago in High School, probably through the Scholastic books program. It was one of my favorites in school, and I have always remembered fondly many of the poems from it. Was so happy to find a copy of it here.

This was my favorite poetry book in my 20's. Thirty years later, it still shines as one of the finest compilations of poetry.

So glad to find a replacement copy in such good condition...thanks

This was a Valentine's Day gift from my husband, I asked for this book because I have loved this collection since first reading it in college. I'm so excited this is now in my personal collection.

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