

# Parent Guide to



Grades 2–3 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your independent reader

April  
2009

Get your  
Parent Guide to Lucky  
Every Month  
at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Lucky  
April Book Club flyer.

### The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl

**Who It's For:** Fans of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; kids with a keen sense of justice.

**Why We Chose It:** Roald Dahl has been a favorite children's author for decades.

**What Parents Say:** "My kid loves the way Dahl's children outwit mean grown-ups magically."

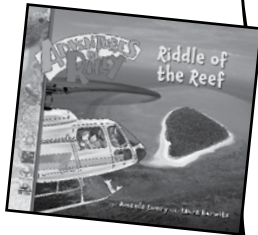


### Adventures of Riley: Riddle of the Reef by Amanda Lumry and Laura Hurwitz

**Who It's For:** Fans of *The Magic School Bus*; anyone who likes exciting science narratives.

**Why We Chose It:** The exciting story is told with a mix of photos and illustration.

**What Parents Say:** "My kid knows all about reefs now—he followed up with library research because this book got him so interested!"



### Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express by Megan McDonald

**Who It's For:** Pet lovers; Judy Moody fans; kids who like to laugh.

**Why We Chose It:** Judy Moody's little brother, Stink, turns out to be just as popular with young readers as Judy herself.

**What Parents Say:** "It's great to know there are a whole series of chapter books about Stink—my child thinks of the characters as real friends."



## Ode to the Power of Poetry

Reading with your child is always a great way to encourage literacy. But reading poetry together may be the most powerful way to boost skills. Through poetry you can:

**Introduce new concepts.** Poetry exposes your reader to different types of literature and language. The experience introduces new words, increases his knowledge on subjects he may not regularly read about, and encourages interest in other genres such as nonfiction or plays.

**Stretch language skills.** Poetic conventions like alliteration, onomatopoeia, simile, and metaphor (see glossary on reverse) make reading exciting. They also challenge your child to think about language differently — as something artistic, powerful, and inspiring. As he becomes familiar with poetic conventions, he gains a better understanding of how to use words to set a mood, clarify a point, or persuade his audience.

**Hook your child's imagination.** Even poems that have predictable rhythms and patterns can have a wild side. Silly rhymes, exclamations, humorous wordplay, metaphors, and unexpected twists turn poems into adventures that will grab your child's interest whether he's a book-lover or a reluctant reader.

**Connect with emotions.** A poem's rhythm speaks to your child's feelings and gives him a deeper understanding of what's happening beyond what the words say. The beat may be soothing or may build up excitement. These techniques help him predict what will happen next. Conventions of poetry such as replaced grammar rules, quick phrases, or word imagery allow writers to express themselves freely. If your child is struggling with emotions such as grief or confusion, encourage him to explore his feelings by writing a poem.



## Did You Know?

April is National Poetry Month!  
Find recommended poetry  
books for your reader at  
[www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Ask an Expert

### How can I encourage my child to write poetry?

By introducing your child to poetic forms and inviting her to create her own poems, you can unlock the magic of poetry. Poetry allows us to invent language, and anyone can write poems. The seeds of poems are everywhere if we train our eyes to look. Find rhymes — it's an exercise in wordplay. Pick a word, and invite your child to think of all the words that rhyme with it. Keep a list of the words she says. Then, together, see if you can create a poem from her list.

**Meet our expert:** Stephanie Izarek is the editor-in-chief of *Parent & Child Magazine* — and is also a poet herself.

Find more advice for your reader at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## What's in a Poem?

Writers use different literary techniques, poetic forms, and sound patterns to create rich imagery and emotional connections with readers. Learn ten new concepts to inspire your budding poet.

### Alliteration:

Repeating, within a line or phrase, the same initial consonant sound in several words: "The raging river roared."

### Assonance:

Repeating, within a line or phrase, the same vowel sounds in words that have different consonants: "The mad cat ran."

### Blank verse:

Poetry that doesn't rhyme but which has a set meter and rhythm

### Carpe diem:

Latin for "seize the day," a common theme in poetry that emphasizes how life is short so we should make the most of today

### Echo:

Repeating sounds, syllables, words, or lines in a poem

### Homonym:

Words that have the same pronunciation and spelling but different meanings (game of pool, swimming pool)

### Hyperbole:

An extreme exaggeration that emphasizes a point but isn't meant to be taken literally: "I'll give you a million dollars for that cookie!"

### Metaphor:

Describing something by comparing it to another object or thing without using "like" or "as": "The moon was a shining jewel."

### Onomatopoeia:

The use of a word that sounds like the thing it stands for (buzz, sizzle)

### Personification:

A type of metaphor where human characteristics or feelings are given to an animal, object, or idea (the brave tree)

## Poetry Collage

Find the best words to describe a picture.

### What you need:

- magazines
- newspapers
- glue
- scissors
- paper

### What to do:

1. With your child, look through old magazines and newspapers for photos that seem particularly interesting.
2. Cut out the photos, and glue each one to a piece of paper.
3. Next, encourage your child to look for words to create poems to use as captions for the pictures. They can be descriptive, humorous, or even just silly.
4. Help your child cut out the words and glue them underneath the photos. For an added challenge, try to make different poems for each photo.
5. For an online twist to this activity, log on to the Scholastic News Games & Quizzes area to play "Write the Caption." There's a new photo featured every week. Submit your best caption — it might be published on the site!

## Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit [www.scholastic.com/classroomscare](http://www.scholastic.com/classroomscare) to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message -- kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.



## Beyond Books

Poems make a lovely gift, so next time your child sends out cards for a grandparent's birthday, a holiday, or just for fun, suggest he include a poem. Encourage him to search out a special poem from an anthology, or even come up with an original.

## Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at [www.scholastic.com/yourreader](http://www.scholastic.com/yourreader).

**About Your Parent Guide to Lucky**  
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