Nature Poetry Books for Kids

**Title:** National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems with Photographs that Float, Zoom, and Bloom!
**Editor:** J. Patrick Lewis
**Summary:** When words in verse are paired with the awesomeness of nature, something magical happens! Beloved former U.S. Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis curates an exuberant poetic celebration of the natural world in this stellar collection of nature poems. From trickling streams to deafening thunderstorms to soaring mountains, discover majestic photography perfectly paired with contemporary classics and never-before-published works. (Adapted from Penguin Random House)

**Title:** Wonder Walkers
**Author & Illustrator:** Micha Archer
**Summary:** When two curious kids embark on a “wonder walk,” they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see: Is the sun the world’s light bulb? Is dirt the world’s skin? Are rivers the earth’s veins? Is the wind the world breathing? I wonder . . . Young readers will wonder too, as they ponder these gorgeous pages and make all kinds of new connections. (Adapted from Penguin Random House)

**Title:** Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year
**Editor, Illustrator:** Fiona Waters, Frann Preston-Gannon
**Summary:** Sing a Song of Seasons is a lavishly illustrated collection of 366 nature poems — one for every day of the year. Filled with familiar favorites and new discoveries written by a wide variety of poets, including William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, John Updike, Langston Hughes, N. M. Bodecker, Okamoto Kanoko, and many more, this is the perfect book to share at the beginning or the end of the day. (Adapted from Penguin Random House)
Title: Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature
Author, Illustrator: Nicola Davies, Mark Hearld
Summary: This beautiful book captures all the sights and sounds of a child’s interactions with nature, from planting acorns or biting into crisp apples to studying tide pools or lying back and watching the birds overhead. No matter what’s outside their windows — city streets or country meadows — kids will be inspired to explore the world around them. (Adapted from Candlewick Press)

Title: Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature
Author, Illustrator: Joyce Sidman, Beth Krommes
Summary: What makes the tiny snail shell so beautiful? Why does that shape occur in nature over and over again—in rushing rivers, in a flower bud, even inside your ear? With simplicity and grace, Joyce Sidman's poetry paired with Beth Krommes's scratchboard illustrations not only reveal the many spirals in nature—from fiddleheads to elephant tusks, from crashing waves to spiraling galaxies—but also celebrate the beauty and usefulness of this fascinating shape. (Adapted from Harper Collins)

Activities to go with the book: School Library Journal provides teaching invitations for PreK-8 here.

Title: Emile and the Field
Author, Illustrator: Kevin Young, Chioma Ebinama
Summary: Emile loves the field close to his home—in spring, summer, and fall, when it gives him bees and flowers, blossoms and leaves. But not as much in winter, when he has to share his beautiful, changeable field with other children…and their sleds. This relatable and lyrical ode to one boy’s love for his neighborhood field celebrates how spending time in nature allows children to dream, to imagine…and even to share. (Penguin Random House)
Title: **A Stick Is an Excellent Thing: Poems Celebrating Outdoor Play**  
**Author, Illustrator:** Marilyn Singer, LeUyen Pham  
**Summary:** Marilyn Singer and LeUyen Pham celebrate universal types of play, from organized games such as hide-and-seek and hopscotch to imaginative play such as making mud soup or turning a stick into a magic wand. Lyrical poems and bold illustrations capture the energy of a group of children in one neighborhood as they amuse themselves over the course of a summer day. (Adapted from Harper Collins)

Title: **Behold Our Magical Garden: Poems Fresh from a School Garden**  
**Author, Illustrator:** Allan Wolf, Daniel Duncan  
**Summary:** There’s a lot more to gardens than meets the eye! In this collection of buoyant poems filled with fun facts, young nature enthusiasts and budding gardeners are called on to help solve a mystery by the compost bin, join a Wild West–style standoff between some good bugs and a few bad ones, interview the sun to find out what happens when it drinks a glass of water, and learn the fancy names of plants to spice up dinner conversation. They’ll be spurred to grab their own gardening tools, drop in some seeds, encounter a few insects, gather fresh vegetables, and find a whole lot of magic. (Adapted from Penguin Random House)

Title: **An Earth Song** (Petite Poems)  
**Author, Illustrator:** Langston Hughes, Tequita Andrews  
**Summary:** In this illustrated adaptation of a beloved Langston Hughes poem, a child delights as the world around him awakens from winter and comes to life with the long-awaited arrival of spring and new beginnings of all kinds. Includes a biography and photograph of Langston Hughes, one of the most prolific leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, and information about the poem “An Earth Song.” (Adapted from Abrams Books)
**Title:** The Father Goose Treasury of Poetry: 101 Favorite Poems for Children  
**Author, Illustrator:** Charles Ghigna, Sara Brezzi  
**Summary:** Young readers and their families will gain an understanding of the wonder and joy of poetry, as well as a positive look at the natural world around them. In the words of Charles Ghigna, “It is the joyous power of poetry that turns listeners into readers and readers into writers.” (Adapted from Schiffer Kids)

**Title:** The Dirt Book: Poems About Animals That Live Beneath Our Feet  
**Author, Illustrator:** David L. Harrison, Kate Cosgrove  
**Summary:** Spectacular vertical panoramas illustrating life underground accompany 15 funny, fascinating poems that explore dirt and the many creatures that make their homes underground. Spiders, earthworms, ants, chipmunks, and more crawl across the pages, between stretching roots and buried stones.

**Title:** When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons  
**Author, Illustrator:** Julie Fogliano, Julie Morstad  
**Summary:** Flowers blooming in sheets of snow make way for happy frogs dancing in the rain. Summer swims move over for autumn sweaters until the snow comes back again. The seasons come to life in this gorgeous and comprehensive book of poetry.