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# Best Poetry & Language Books

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# 26. BLUE BOWL DOWN: AN APPALACHIAN RHYME

By C.M. Millen Illustrated by Holly Meade Candlewick Press, \$16.99, ISBN: 0763618179

Mother and baby making bread in the evening is beautifully chronicled in lyrical verse and shown in soft, warm, large watercolor collage. The gentle beauty of both poem and pictures create a time past when kneading bread by lantem light and sharing the fruits of work done together was a family tradition. A wonderful book best shared read aloud with a young child in your lap.

#### 27. MONKEY BUSINESS

By C.M. Millen

Written and illustrated by Wallace Edwards Kids Can Press, \$16.95, ISBN: 1553374622

Uproariously entertaining and masterfully illustrated idioms create a unique celebration of language. Each familiar saying is amplified by an accurate rendering that defies the very definition of an idiom; a

peculiar expression that cannot literally be translated. So, when Mumford "lets the cat out of the bag," a tiger is pictured climbing out of a purse on a table while a monkey in a framed portrait above holds his head in dismay. Hours of not-to-be-missed amusement for young and old alike inside.

# 28. MY HOUSE IS SINGING

By Betsy R. Rosenthal Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine Harcourt Children's Books, \$16, ISBN: 0152162933



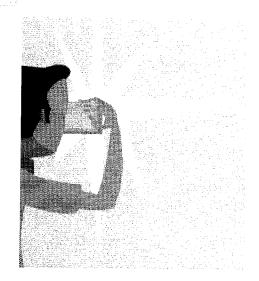


Intro: Most Valuable Book of 2004 Best Story/Picture Books Best Picture Book Illustrations Best Wordless Picture

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Each poem in this original collection lovingly describes some part of a young girl's house. From the "Magnetic Scrapbook" that is a refrigerator door to the "Stubborn Back Door" that sticks shut some days, words magically come alive to tell the secrets of a safe, contented place that is home. Large, colorful prints add to the enchantment of this wonderful poetry.

#### 29. SCIENCE VERSE

brought us "Math Curse."

By Jon Scieszka Illustrated by Lane Smith Viking, \$16.99, ISBN: 0670910570

A boy in science class becomes cursed with verse when his teacher suggests that there is poetry in science. Take-offs on famous poems such as "Astronaut Stopping by a Planet on a Snowy Evening" are great fun, while fanciful, soft-colored illustrations depict a big-headed guy in way over his head most of the time. Strikingly well done from the brilliant team that

SCIENCE VERSE

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