

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets

Kwame Alexander

Reviewed by: Anika 18

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Poetry is a powerful thing. It has moved many minds, hearts, and souls, especially those of the authors of *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets!* Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderley, and Marjory Wentworth present to you a series of charming poems celebrating their favorite poets! Lucille Clifton once wrote “Poems come out of wonder, not out of knowing.” With moving words and lively illustrations, *Out of Wonder* will have you wondering about a variety of powerful poets from different times and places!

I’ve enjoyed Kwame Alexander’s other works and really looked forward to reading this one! I simply loved the illustrations all throughout the book, so hats off to Ekua Holmes for such beautiful artwork! The book is divided into three main chapters: Got Style, In Your Shoes, and Thank You. They all begin with a little blurb about the power of poetry right before delving into a number of poems, each celebrating a different poet. Every reader can appreciate the poems, even if they don’t know the poets being celebrated. Older readers can recognize and enjoy the styles inspiring the different works. Younger readers will be excited by the rich and vibrant pieces of art and find a wonderful introduction to poetry. In fact, Kwame Alexander makes sure to include brief biographies for each celebrated poet at the end of the book for readers interested in learning more about them. There were so many poets I did not know, but I’m excited to find out more about them! And I’m sure other readers will too, maybe to even write their own poems as well.

Out of Wonder has little to nothing in regards to inappropriate or mature content. My only one criticism is that a few of the poems might not necessarily match the works of the poets they are celebrating, but that’s the art of it! There’s so many different inspirations and ways to interpret them. Considering the vocabulary, I would recommend this novel for readers 8 years and up, but children even younger can join in the fun if they have someone to help them read! *Out of Wonder* would make a great gift for students in elementary school and fans of poetry.

Recommended Titles:

Love that Dog by Sharon Creech

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander

Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices by Paul Fleischman

And the Soldiers Sang by Patrick J. Lewis