

Poems to Learn by Heart

Caroline Kennedy

Reviewed by Aditya Varma, Age 12

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

www.betherstaryouare.com

Caroline Kennedy's *Poems to Learn by Heart* includes an extensive variety of poems, rhymes, ballads, odes, and literature to be remembered. It includes poems ranging from happiness and joy to silliness and remorse. I would give this book a 3.9/5. This book's many pages will make you laugh, cry, smile or even frown, while reflecting upon many things and ideas in life. I liked the diversity of the poems and their deep meanings. This book incorporates many different authors like Shel Silverstein and Billy Rose, giving this book many different perspectives. This is a nice touch after reading many poetry books on one subject. My personal favorites include "Baby ate a microchip," "Sick," and "Foolish Questions." Kennedy also incorporated many poems from classic poets such as Abraham Lincoln and Alfred Tennyson. Those are some reasons I liked the book, along with some of my favorite poems.

This book also had its shortcomings. A major one is that many poems have already been included in other books, which makes it feel as if this book is just a repeat. Some poems do not fit into the section title/theme, which can be rather misleading and unexpected. An example of this is "The splendor falls on Castle Walls," which falls into the "Tales about fairies, ogres, and witches," category, none of which are mentioned in the poem. A few of the selected poems are also confusing and are chosen from adult and young adult poets like William Shakespeare. Those are some negative things about this book.

From my viewpoint this book will be best enjoyed by anyone 5 to 15. The book contains poems desired to strike well within a younger age, but do also include a small margin of more advanced poems. For anyone older, I would recommend a different book. If you want books filled entirely with poems for kids, try Shel Silverstein's *Falling Up* or *A Light in the Attic*. When reading this book, you should reflect on the many viewpoints and take a minute to look for deeper meanings that some of them have. The next time you travel to the local library, definitely pick this book up for the talented one in the family. This is also a good book to read to younger siblings and children. All in all, this book is absolutely one to remember by heart.

Recommended Titles

Shel Silverstein - *Falling Up*

A Light in the Attic.