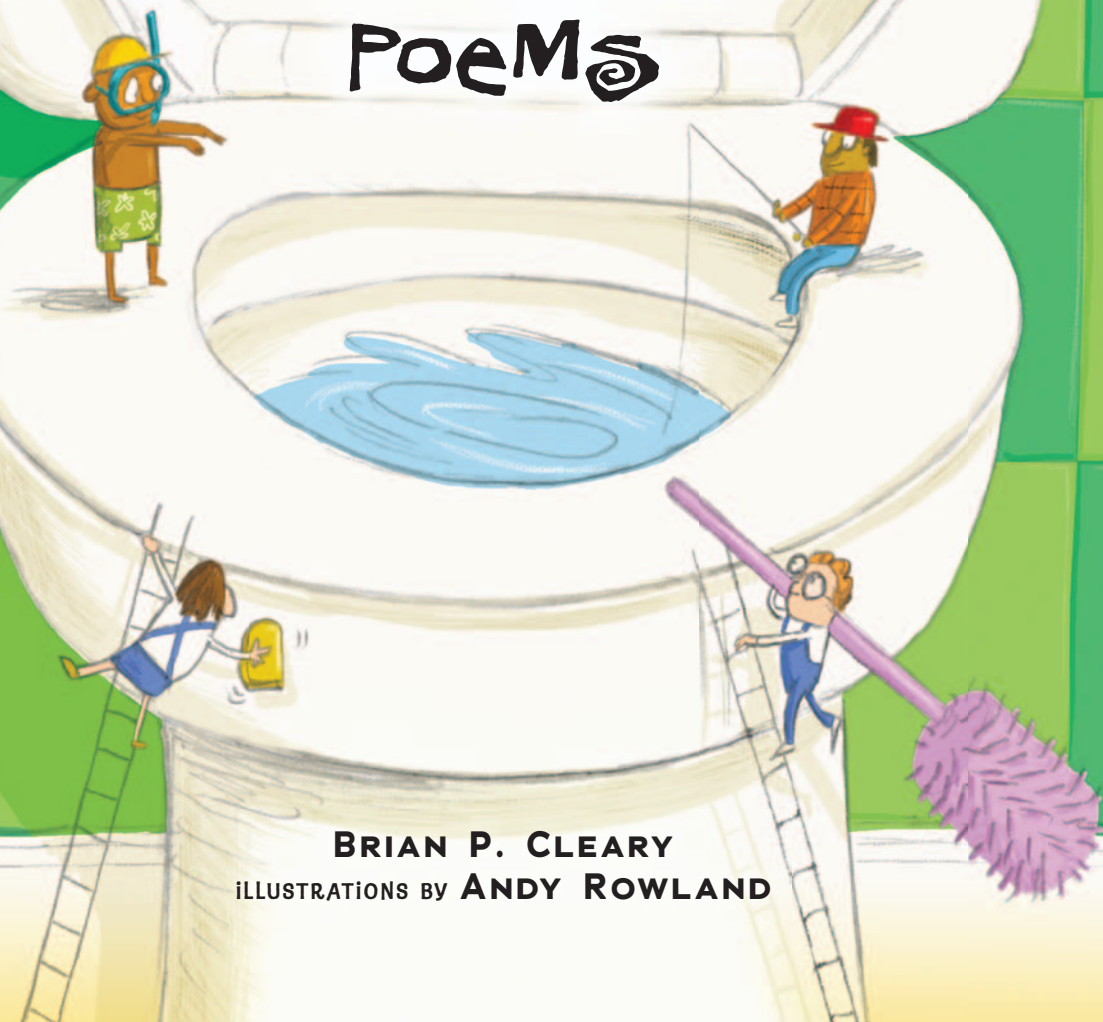


POETRY ADVENTURES

Ode to a Commode

CONCRETE
Poems



BRIAN P. CLEARY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANDY ROWLAND

**This Page
Left Blank
Intentionally**

P O E T R Y A D V E N T U R E S



ODE TO a COMMODORE

CONCRETE
POEMS

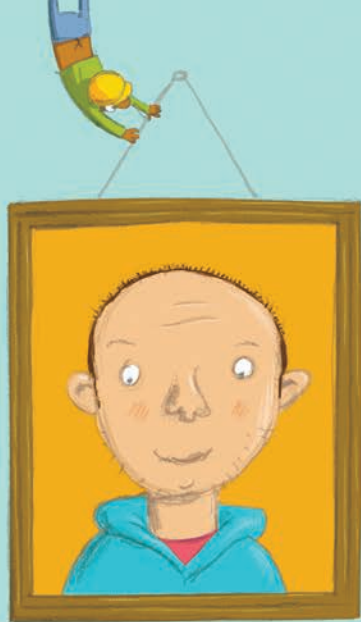


BRIAN P. CLEARY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
ANDY ROWLAND



M MILLBROOK PRESS/MINNEAPOLIS



*For Maryann,
Imani & Fatma
—BPC*

*For my little
pancake, Alice
—AR*



Text copyright © 2015 by Brian P. Cleary
Illustrations copyright © 2015 by Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.

All rights reserved. International copyright secured. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., except for the inclusion of brief quotations in an acknowledged review.

Millbrook Press
A division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.
241 First Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55401 USA

For reading levels and more information, look up this title at www.lernerbooks.com.

Main body text hand-lettered by Andy Rowland

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cleary, Brian P., 1959–
[Poems. Selections]
Ode to a commode: concrete poems/ By Brian P. Cleary ; Illustrated by Andy Rowland.
pages cm. — (Poetry Adventures)
ISBN: 978-1-4677-2045-8 (lib. bdg. : alk. paper)
ISBN: 978-1-4677-4767-7 (EB pdf)
I. Rowland, Andrew, 1962- ill. II. Title.
PS3553.L39144C66 2014
811'.54—dc23

2013030859

Manufactured in the United States of America
2-42497-14292-7/13/2016



TABLE OF CONTENTS

What Is a Concrete Poem? 4

Ode to a Commode 6

No Wonder He's So Quiet 7

The Last Piece
of Halloween Candy 8

What about Me? 9

A Twisted Tale 10

Air Show 11

Time-Out 12

Going Up 13

A Little Hairy 14

STOP 15

Hi-ho, Silverware! 16

Brrrr 18

An Invitation 19

Best Fishes 20

The Plan 22

The Boa Constrictor 23

I Chews You 24

All Wet 25

My Brother's Shoe 26

Cool, Sweet...but

Enough about Me 27

Red, White, and You 28

The Late Shift 30

Rooted in Friendship 31

Further Reading 32



WHAT IS a CONCRETE POEM?

When you think of poems, you probably think of words in straight lines. But some poems actually look like animals or objects! The verses can be curvy, jagged, or even round. These kinds of poems are called concrete poems.

A concrete poem takes on the shape of whatever it is about. The topic of the poem is always an object (instead of a feeling or an idea). The letters, words, or symbols are arranged on the page to form a picture of that object. So a poem about a flight of stairs is actually shaped like a flight of stairs. In this fun, visual type of poetry, the words and their shape work together to create the poem.

Look at the poem on the right-hand page. Even if you just glance at it from several feet away and can't make out the words, you can tell that it's a pair of scissors. Now read the piece:

Scissors snip and nip and cut and always come in pairs.
Great for cutting paper up and trimming my sister's dolls' hairs.

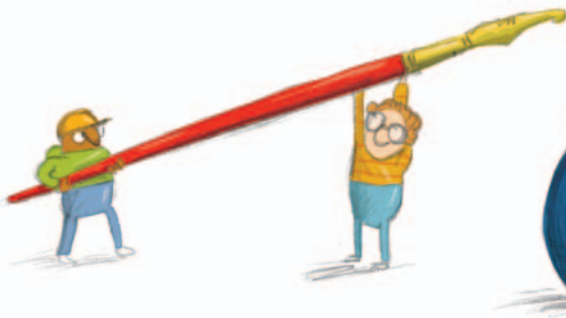
Making concrete poems is easier than you might think. Pick something that has an interesting shape. Write a poem about it, and then shape the lines of the poem to look like what you chose. You can make the shape by hand, or you can use a computer.

Not a big rhymers? Not a problem. Concrete poems don't have to rhyme. Just write descriptive words and phrases. It will still look really cool.

Here's a List
of Idea Starters:

basketball	Popsicle
cat	sailboat
clouds	skyscraper
flag	star
flute	tire swing
ladder	trumpet
lighthouse	umbrella
kite	vase
monkey bars	wrecking ball
ocean wave	

I'll bet you can think of many more.
Happy reading and writing!



ode To a CoMMode

Flush goes the sound of the toilet!
Vanishes in a swirl and a whoosh, and the water (with everything in it) fills back up in a minute!



NO WONDER He's so QUIET

NOW I CAN
LEAF ON THE TREE, EACH BLADE OF GRASS, BLUE JAY, OR ANT, I ALSO FOUND OUT
WHAT I THOUGHT
WAS REALLY
POTTED
SEE EVERY
WAS MY FRIEND
A TALL
PLANT.



THE LAST PIECE OF HALLOWEEN CANDY

once I lived inside a store atop a candy shelf.
Now I'm stuck alone inside this bag all by myself.

Hard and shiny colored candies, soft and chewy gummies
all once were my neighbors here—a whole block's worth of yummys.

The candy that's most popular was long ago selected,
opened, and then gobbled up, while I remain neglected.

The caramel treats have been enjoyed, the nutty chocolate savored,
but no one wants a candy bar that's "Tuna Salad" flavored.

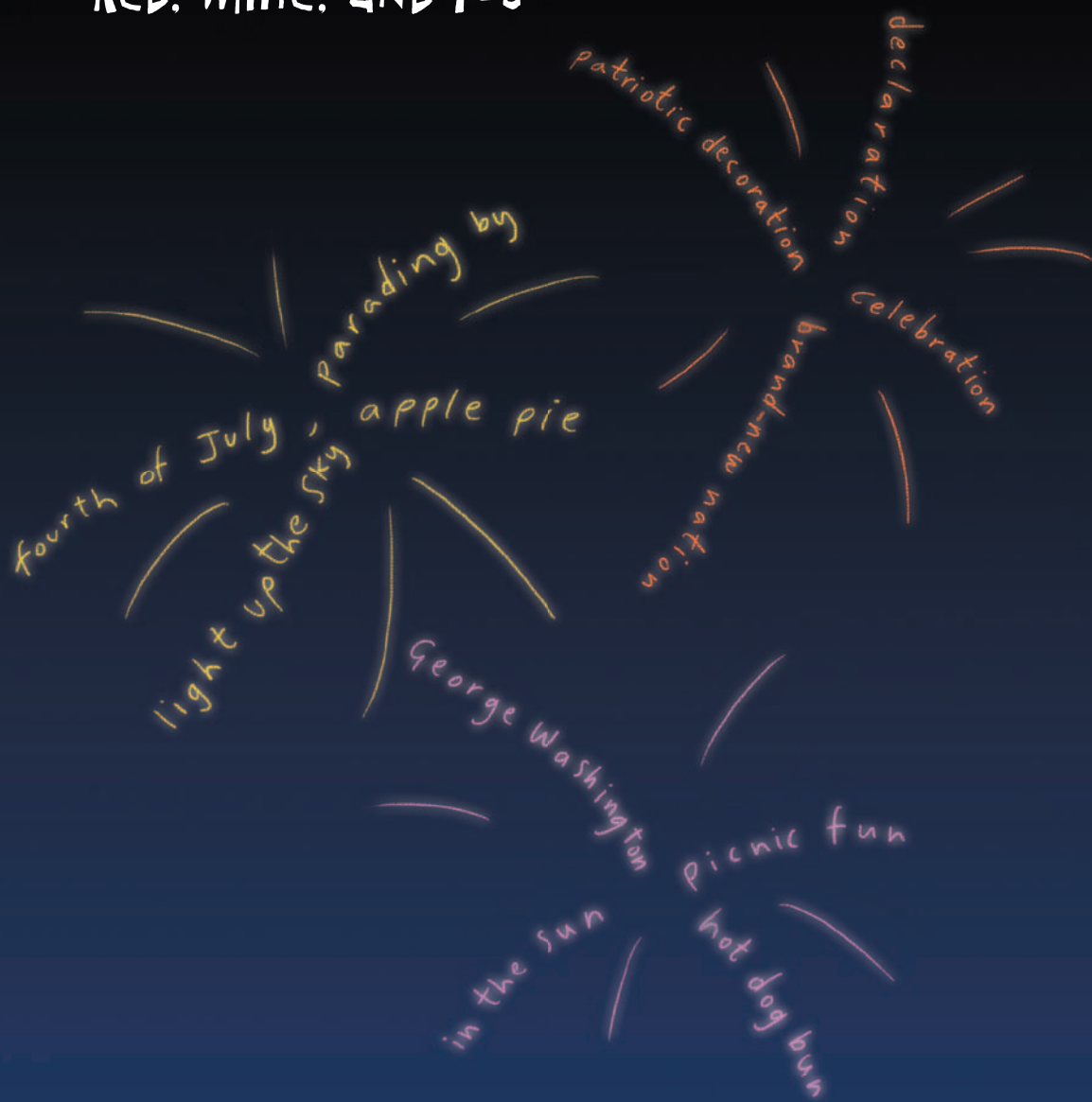


FANS
will clap
for kickers as
I'M sailing THROUGH
THE POST. AND WHEN
I'm caught, receivers
get to be THE ONES who boast.
AND when I'm CARRIED
past the goal, just look
around and see - the cheers
are for the RUNNING
back, but why
AREN'T they
FOR ME?

WHAT
ABOUT
ME?



Red. White. and You



cue the fireworks, please
colonies
burgers with cheese
festivities
England's loss
barbecue sauce
Betsey Ross
baseball toss
O say can you see's
liberties



THE LATE SHIFT

THE SUN LAYS DOWN
ITS TIRED HEAD, SINKING
SLOWLY INTO BED. LIGHT
GOES OUT, STARS GO ON. MOON
KEEPS WATCH UNTIL THE DAWN.

KEEPS WATCH UNTIL THE DAWN
GOES OUT, STARS GO ON. MOON
STOMPS INTO BED. LIGHT
ITS TIRED HEAD, SINKING
THE SUN LAYS DOWN



ROOTED IN FRIENDSHIP

O tree outside
my window-I see you first each day.
You shade me from the summer sun when I'm
outside at play. You never have to be
somewhere. You always have the time to
let me go exploring as I shimmy, swing, and
climb. You're sturdy and you're steady. You're
so strong and green and tall. You
change your leafy jacket to
a reddish gold each fall.

You make
a home for
birds that
nest and
rest their
wings for
flight, and
chirp me
soothing
lullabies
as I doze off
each night.



FURTHER Reading

BOOKS

Atwood, Megan. *Connor and Clara Build a Concrete Poem*. Chicago: Norwood House, 2012.

Learn more about how to make your own concrete poems.

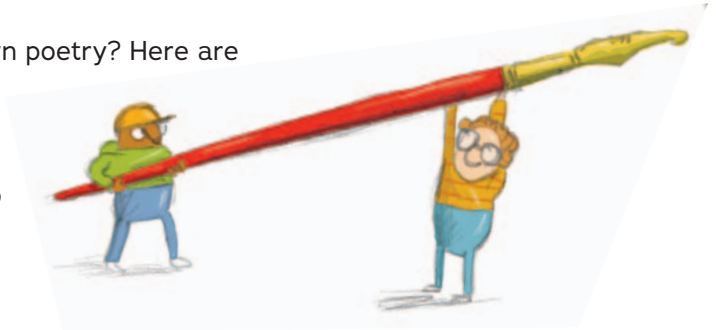
Cleary, Brian P. *Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2004.

Discover poems of all kinds in this laugh-out-loud collection.

Franco, Betsy. *A Dazzling Display of Dogs*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2011.
This collection of visual poems celebrates all things canine—from obedience school to backyard breakouts.

Prelutsky, Jack. *Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem*. New York: Greenwillow, 2008.

Would you like to write your own poetry? Here are some expert tips for turning your own experiences and stories about your family, your pets, and your friends into poems.



Websites

Concrete Poetry

<http://www.wild-about-woods.org.uk/elearning/concretetpoetry>

On this website, you can choose a shape or draw your own and then choose words to fill it.

Giggle Poetry

<http://www.gigglepoetry.com>

Find funny poems, poetry contests, and more on this activity-packed website.

Poetry for Kids: How to Write a Concrete Poem

<http://www.poetry4kids.com/blog/news/how-to-write-a-concrete-poem>

The poetry playground of Children's Poet Laureate Kenn Nesbitt is filled with funny poems and poetry books, games, contests, poetry lessons and activities, and lots more.



**This Page
Left Blank
Intentionally**



POETRY ADVENTURES TITLES:

Bow-Tie Pasta:
Acrostic Poems

I Saw an Invisible Lion Today:
Quatrains

If It Rains Pancakes:
Haiku and Lantern Poems

Ode to a Commode:
Concrete Poems

Something Sure Smells Around Here:
Limericks

Underneath My Bed:
List Poems



MILLBROOK PRESS

A DIVISION OF LERNER PUBLISHING GROUP

www.lernerbooks.com

007-011 Guided Reading: 0

Early Intervention: 24*

*Estimated