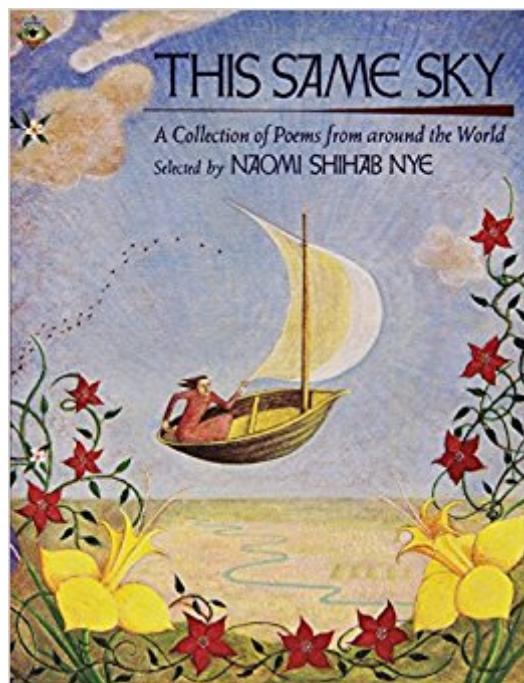


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# This Same Sky: A Collection Of Poems From Around The World



## **Synopsis**

A poetry anthology in which 129 poets from 68 different countries celebrate the natural world and its human and animal inhabitants.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Aladdin (May 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689806302

ISBN-13: 978-0689806308

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #87,714 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #598 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #684 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 9-12-- In the preface, Nye says, ``. . . what lovely, larger life becomes ours when we listen to one another?'' This question states the purpose of this anthology that emphasizes selections from the Middle East, Asia, Africa, India, and South and Central America. They are indexed by country as well as by poet. This is a lengthy collection, close to 200 pages long, brimming with much lovely material. The poems are about many things: the nature of poetry (and language itself), the beauty of the natural world, how feelings about childhood are colored by memory, the love of parent for a child (and vice versa). Some are more political in subject matter. Determining the audience is problematic. The preface states that the poems have been especially chosen for young people, but many of them will be of marginal interest to them, and several require an adult perspective to be appreciated. The book may be useful, but it will have to be introduced by a sensitive adult (preferably a very talented teacher who can lead students to draw connections that may seem unlikely at first). For senior high and public libraries where multicultural material is a priority.

--Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL

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--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Naomi Shihab Nye has collected over one hundred poems from poets all over the world. The poems are about many things, including nature and families. While the details of the poetry (items, animals and birds) are foreign, the feelings expressed are familiar to us all. Some of the poems are funny, like the one from Altazor by Vicente Huidobro, many others are sad ("My Life Story" by Lan Nguyen and "Behind Bars" by Fadwa Tuqan). Some poems are puzzling, like "Petrified Minute" by Zoltan Zelk and others make you want to know more of the story behind them, like Ruth Dallas's "A New Dress" and Gu Cheng's "A Headstrong Boy." There are poems that create beautiful mental images, and poems that leave the reader bewildered and vaguely disturbed (Tony Perez's "Volunteer Worker"). While the words have been translated into English, much of this poetry is difficult to understand. Many poems would be almost meaningless for a reader with no frame of reference to place the poem in. The poem "Jerusalem" by the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai is one that a reader with little knowledge about the history of Palestine would find puzzling. The brief Notes on the Contributors at the back of the volume help explain a little more about the poets, but to truly understand some of the poetry more background information is needed. This collection is not one most children will fully understand on their own.

A beautiful, and varied, collection of poetry from around the globe. Well worth the purchase.

Very nice and fast shipping.

Great international collection of poetry, my tween and I shared. Even the translated poems are done well and understandable.

Let me help you think in circles. I wasnt a fan. I dont know how to put it but i feel like the right person with an open mind could get down with this.

I don't have this program. No idea why it is showing up on my review listing. Why would this show up as an app when I never downloaded this app?

English is a simplistic language when compared to a great many other languages. It simply doesn't have the same potential for subtle nuances, rhyming, and other things of that nature. With that in mind, it's always hit-or-miss as to whether a translated poem will carry the same impact in English

as it did in its original language. That, I would say, is one of the problems with this book, and it's not the book's, nor Naomi Shihab Nye's fault. As the other reviewer said, some of the poems are quite good, some are obscure, and some are downright puzzling, and I imagine those particular ones, in their original language, had a lot more clarity of vision and feeling. The cultural backgrounds are a pitfall, as was also stated, though if a reader has a small knowledge of world history, the captions at the bottom of each poem which state the country of the author's origin are a great help. For example, when reading a poem about scrounging in the jungle, looking for a few scraps of rice, AK-47 in hand, it helps to know if the author is Vietnamese. That notwithstanding, some of the poems are simply confusing, and I am an English major, and some, also due to the translation, I imagine, seem more like straight-forward prose. All in all, *This Same Sky* is a good collection, and it does a very good job representing a broad cross-section of the world. It's just a shame the English language doesn't do the works justice. So, with that in mind, it's the translation's fault that I only gave the book 3 stars.

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