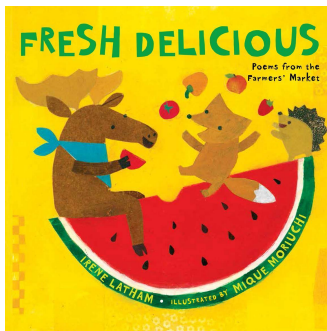




## 5 Fresh Delicious Ways to Celebrate National Poetry Month



Hello and Happy National Poetry Month! This is the time to celebrate words and love and poems and LIFE! Yes indeed the dogwoods are blooming and the bluebirds are nesting, and there has never been a more fresh delicious moment than this one. Thank you for sharing it with me!

## 1. Play with your fruits & veggies!

Last month I delivered to the world my latest book *FRESH DELICIOUS: Poems from the Farmers' Market*. It features gorgeous, imaginative illustrations by Mique Moriuchi, and was made possible by the amazing folks at [WordSong/Boyds Mills Press](#). I'm so grateful to be a part of this team! Watermelon-sized thanks to readers/teachers/bloggers/friends everywhere who have already shared about this book.

[Jama's Alphabet Soup](#) - poems and art about blueberries! lettuce! bell peppers!

[Today's Little Ditty](#) - poems and art about corn!

[TeacherDance](#) - poetry lessons about all the offerings at the farmers' market!

[The Poem Farm](#) - read a poem that cut from the collection -- and find out why!

### Trade reviews:

"Food selection and preparation is rarely such a fun adventure."

- *Booklist*

"The bright, pleasant illustrations, which feature cut-paper animals, work well to enhance the atmosphere and convey the actions of the verse."

- *School Library Journal*

"Whimsical poems will inspire readers to play with their fruits and vegetables."

- *Kirkus*

"Half a dozen recipes cap off a lighthearted celebration of food at peak freshness."

- *Publisher's Weekly*

[Get FRESH DELICIOUS Today!](#)

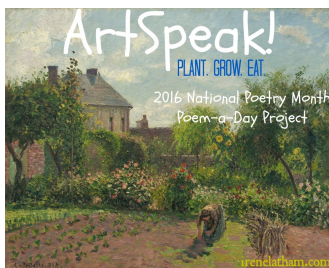
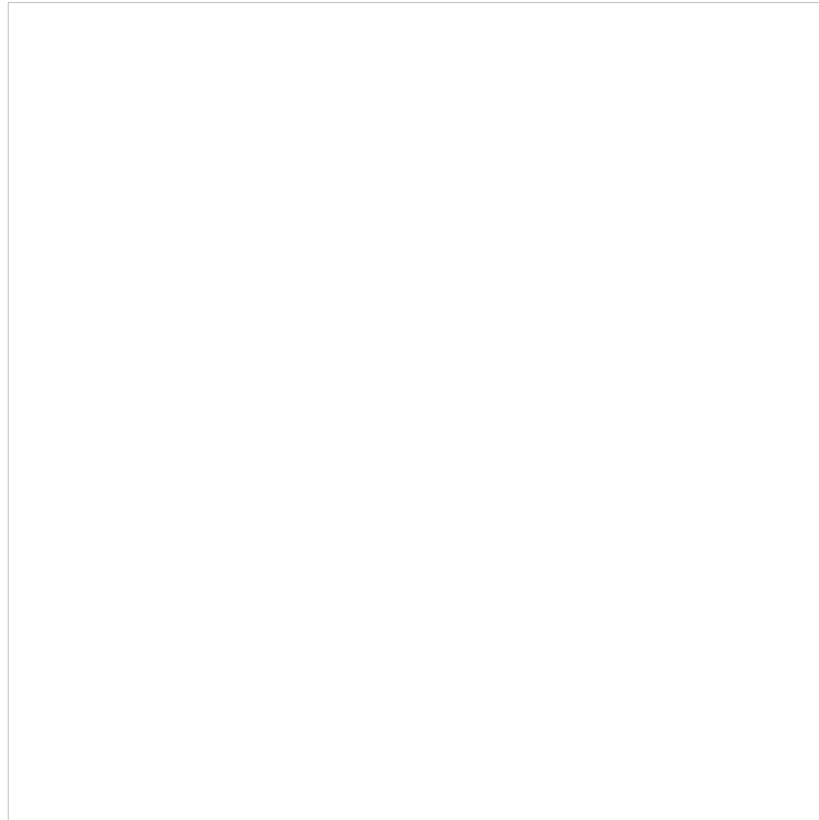


## 2. Sign up to receive an artsy-poetry postcard!

For the past 5 years I have sent out postcards during National Poetry Month, and I would love to send one to YOU! Signing up is easy: just click the graphic, add your address, and soon a little bit of poetic goodness will arrive in your mailbox.

### 3. Follow along as the Poetry Friday blogging community creates the 4th annual Kidlitopshere Progressive Poem!

This is a traveling poem in which a different blogger adds a line each day during the month of April. There are always surprising twists and turns as the poem moves from blog to blog -- we never know what's going to happen! It's great fun, and we'd love for you to share in it with us! [Read the first line from Laura Purdie Salas here.](#)



### 4. Share my 2016 ARTSPEAK! Journey!

This year I am continuing my National Poetry Month poem-a-day project called [ARTSPEAK!](#) Each day I respond to a piece of art from the [National Gallery of Art's digital collection](#) -- this year's theme is *Plant. Grow. Eat.*

You can find last year's offering as well as this year's (growing!) collection at my blog Live Your Poem. First poem: "[Triolet for Planting Day](#)," after [\\_The Artist's Garden at Eragny\\_ by Camille Pissarro.](#)

## 5. Live Your Poem!

Take a walk. Write a poem. Talk to a 3 year old or a 93 year old. Go to a museum. Take a nap. Hike. Garden. [Read](#). Whatever it is that you love best, do it! Be open to the beauty and wonder in the world. Be a beginner. Be YOU.

Other suggestions (taken from poems) for how to live your poem can be found [here](#).

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### Other April Happenings:

There's so much loveliness going on in the world this month, I can't possibly cover it all here. So I will just leave you with a few links:

[Jama Rattigan's post with a list of how kidlit bloggers are celebrating National Poetry Month](#) - so much good stuff! I do hope you'll join in the fun!

[Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival](#) - I will be presenting a session called "Reading is Delicious: Fun, Fresh Food Programming for Kids"

Texas Library Association Conference - I am honored to be part of the Poetry Roundup coordinated by [Sylvia Vardell](#), along with these other wonderful poets: [Janet Wong](#), [Amy Ludwig VanDerwater](#), [Steve Swinburne](#), [David L Harrison](#), [K A Holt](#), and [Kwame Alexander](#)

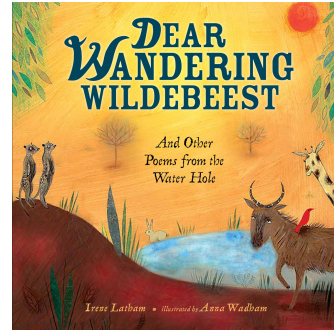
[Alabama Library Association Convention](#) - April 12-15 (I'll be there with other authors on the 13th!)

[Birmingham Arts Journal Reading and Release Party](#) - April 28 -- Y'all Come!

[Alabama Book Festival](#) - April 23 in Montgomery, AL

## And...

Did you hear? [DEAR WANDERING WILDEBEEST: And Other Poems from the Water Hole](#) (illus. by [Anna Wadham](#)) was named a [Lee Bennett Hopkins SCBWI Poetry Award](#) Honor Book! I'm honored, grateful and humbled. The other Honor Book was [FEEDING THE FLYING FANELLI'S](#) by [Kate Hosford & Cosei Kawa](#) and the winner was [FOREST HAS A SONG](#) by [Amy Ludwig VanDerwater & Robin Gourley](#).



Thank you, readers! The best part of being an author is connecting with YOU. Happy National Poetry Month! May you be inspired and inspiring!  
Love,  
Irene

p.s. Click [here](#) to find out about the book I wish I could give everyone a copy of for National Poetry Month.

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