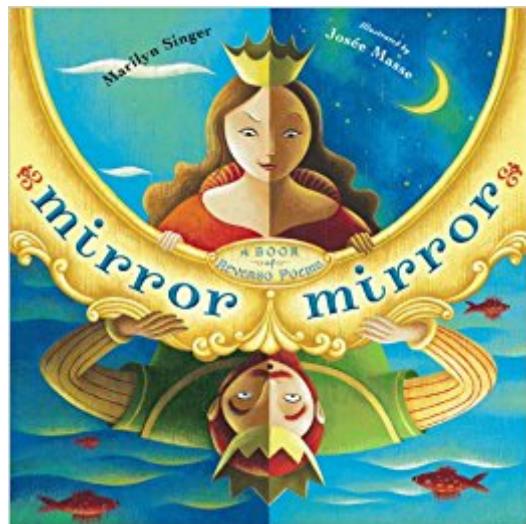


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# Mirror Mirror: A Book Of Reverso Poems



## Synopsis

With 6 starred reviews, 8 best of the year lists, and over 20 state award nominations, everyone is raving about Mirror Mirror!"Remarkable."Ã¢â€”The Washington Post"This mind-bending poetry is accompanied by Masse's equally intelligent, equally amusing art."Ã¢â€”Time Out New York for KidsWhatÃ¢â€”s brewing when two favoritesÃ¢â€”poetry and fairy talesÃ¢â€”are turned (literally) on their heads? ItÃ¢â€”s a revolutionary recipe: an infectious new genre of poetry and a lovably modern take on classic stories. First, read the poems forward (how old-fashioned!), then reverse the lines and read again to give familiar tales, from Sleeping Beauty to that Charming Prince, a delicious new spin. Witty, irreverent, and warm, this gorgeously illustrated and utterly unique offering holds a mirror up to language and fairy tales, and renews the fun and magic of both.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: NP (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (March 4, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0525479015

ISBN-13: 978-0525479017

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.4 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #39,347 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Humorous #176 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse #667 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 3Ã¢â€”œ6Ã¢â€”This appealing collection based on fairy tales is a marvel to read. It is particularly noteworthy because the poems are read in two ways: up and down. They are reverse images of themselves and work equally well in both directions. "Mirror Mirror" is chilling in that Snow White, who is looking after the Seven Dwarves, narrates the first poem of the pair. Read in reverse, it is the wicked queen who is enticing Snow White to eat the apple that will put

her to sleep forever. "In the Hood" is as crafty as the wolf who tells of his delightful anticipation of eating Red Riding Hood. The mirrored poem is Red Riding Hood reminding herself not to dally since Grandma awaits. The vibrant artwork is painterly yet unfussy and offers hints to the characters who are narrating the poems. An endnote shows children how to create a "reverse" poem. This is a remarkably clever and versatile book that would work in any poetry or fairy-tale unit. A must-have for any library. •Joan Kindig, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

\*Starred Review\* This ingenious book of reversos, or poems which have one meaning when read down the page and perhaps an altogether different meaning when read up the page, toys with and reinvents oh-so-familiar stories and characters, from Cinderella to the Ugly Duckling. The five opening lines of the Goldilocks reverso read: "Asleep in cub's bed / Blonde / startled by / Bears, / the headline read." • Running down the page side-by-side with this poem is a second, which ends with: "Next day / the headline read: / Bears startled / by blonde / asleep in cub's bed." • The 14 pairs of poems •easily distinguished by different fonts and background colors•allow changes only in punctuation, capitalization, and line breaks, as Singer explains in an author's note about her invented poetic form. "It is a form that is both challenging and fun•rather like creating and solving a puzzle." • Singer also issues an invitation for readers to try to write their own reversos on any topic. Matching the cleverness of the text, Masse's deep-hued paintings create split images that reflect the twisted meaning of the irreverently witty poems and brilliantly employ artistic elements of form and shape. •Cinderella's clock on one side morphs to the moon on the other. A must-purchase that will have readers marveling over a visual and verbal feast. Grades 2-5. --Patricia Austin

This is a great concept, and a good book. Each poem is readable frontwards and backwards, with each line acting as its own unit. (This means some of the lines are quite short, of course.) And the front and the back version of each poem tells the fairy tale from a different perspective. My favorite? The Hansel and Gretel one: Fatten up, boy! Don't you like prime rib? Then your hostess, she will roast you goose. Have another chocolate. Eat another piece of gingerbread. When you hold it out, your finger feels like a bone. Fatten up. Don't keep her waiting... Keep her waiting. Don't fatten up. A bone feels like your finger when you hold it out. Eat another piece of gingerbread. Have another chocolate -Goose! Then your hostess, she will roast you like prime rib. Don't you fatten up, boy!

This book is unique and wonderful, mostly what I imagined, but done so much better than I anticipated. Singer and Masse manage to provide both sides of the story from famous fairy tales, using similar imagery--and in Singer's case, the exact same words--to convey differing viewpoints. I've rarely seen this done so well if at all since my memory is failing to produce another example. Yes, you need this one for your personal library. I've enjoyed it myself as an adult without a child present but also anticipate using it with children in the future. This one can be enjoyed for mere entertainment alone, but it has so many possible applications for teaching and learning, too. It's a "must own" for any school or public library. I haven't been this excited about a picture book in a while and will be shocked if this one isn't in high contention for a Caldecott and other honors over the coming year.

The bold, beautiful illustrations for this book perfectly illustrate the dual perspective, chimeric nature of the book. Roughly half of each illustration represents one of the two sides of the accompanying "reverso" poem, while roughly half represents the other perspective. The two visual perspectives generally join along a central line, with the tone of the illustration changing along that line, even at times when figures continue across the dividing line (as in the illustration for the Little Red Riding Hood poem ("In the hood"), in which the wolf's body flows across the top of the page, but in one half he's wearing a green suit, while on the other half his body blends with the trees). This division is not, however, rigid, as in some of the illustrations figures flow across the dividing line more fluidly. These illustrations are so brilliant that I'm contemplating buying a second copy of the book, removing the pages and framing them - they're that good. I'm just not sure I can myself to damage a book in that way. I've looked at some of Josee Masse's illustrations online and I really like her style, both for kids and adults. Marilyn Singer's poems themselves are a mixed bag. The concept itself - creating a poem that can be read both forward and backward - is ingenious. Perhaps the best example is the one Ms. Singer presents on the last page - her own first attempt: "A cat/without/a chair:/Incomplete." vs. "Incomplete:/A chair/without/a cat." Although the words are the same, they present a different perspective or even a completely different meaning when read in reverse. Applying this concept to fairy tales, in which there are often two different characters with different perspectives, is also brilliant. Some of the poems in this book are pitch-perfect. For instance, "In the Hood" does a delightful job of presenting both Little Red's perspective and the Big Bad Wolf's perspective. The reverso, however, doesn't necessarily have to present the perspectives of two different characters. In "The Doubtful Duckling", for instance, both sides of the poem are from the Duckling's perspective,

but each gives a different outlook on his transformation to beautiful swan. The Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel and Beauty and the Beast poems, along with the final poem ("The Road") are also all very well done. Not all the poems work so well, however. The two halves of "Mirror Mirror", for example, seem to be saying the same thing. I'm not even sure who the narrator of either side is supposed to be - the Queen for both? "Full of Beans" is similar in that reversing the poem does not significantly change the meaning or perspective of the poem. "Disappointment" (the Princess and the Frog) and "Rapunzel's Locks" are confusing because they don't even seem to follow the story line of the actual fairy tale. Rapunzel doesn't cut her own hair - the enchantress does. And I don't recall anything in "The Princess and the Frog" about a second kiss. Nevertheless, the beautiful artwork, the poetic concept, and the reversos that do work well lead me to highly recommend this book. I don't, however, recommend it for kids as young as 4 as indicated on 's product review. I don't really think that most kids will appreciate this book until they are able to read, so they can understand the concept of reading up and down the page. Also, kids have to have at least the beginnings of abstract thinking to understand the different perspectives of the reversos. My own four-year-old (who is generally pretty perceptive) was utterly baffled by the book. I'll probably put it away for a year or two and see how her perception changes.

cute, kids like it

I purchased this out of pure curiosity. I couldn't imagine that the poems, hemmed in as they were by topic and type, would be that great, but I had to see them. I was wrong. They were really great. I loved the insight of seeing the two different characters say such similar things (but reversed, of course) from their very different perspectives. I don't want to say too much about any of the poems because it would spoil the discovery. I'll just stick to a simple "Great!" so you can peel away the pages yourself. I've enjoyed sharing this with my elementary school aged kids at home, and I have a composition challenge out to my middle schoolers in class. I'd highly recommend this for either age. Additionally, because there are two sides to everything, even the boys were able and willing to engage.

There is no way to describe this book, one must experience. Each page has a poem about a famous fairy tale that makes perfect sense. The next page is the EXACT same poem written with the last line first to the first line last, and it changes the entire meaning, but still makes perfect sense. Working in a children's library, I read a lot of children's books, but this book is intriguing for

adults as well. Some of the most clever writing I have ever come across.

This seemed like an interesting book. But ended up not being what I had hoped for. Some of the reverse poems seem like the author was trying to hard to get them to work.

This is an awesome book of reverso poems, based on fairy tales. The poem is written, and then the order of the lines is reversed in a second poem. Only capitals and punctuation are changed. The same lines tell two sides of a story, like Hansel and Gretel vs. the Witch's point of view. This is a great mentor text for point of view or for poetry, but it is also just a fun read. This author has a new book of reverso poems coming out in 2013- I can't wait!

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