

The Bubble Collector

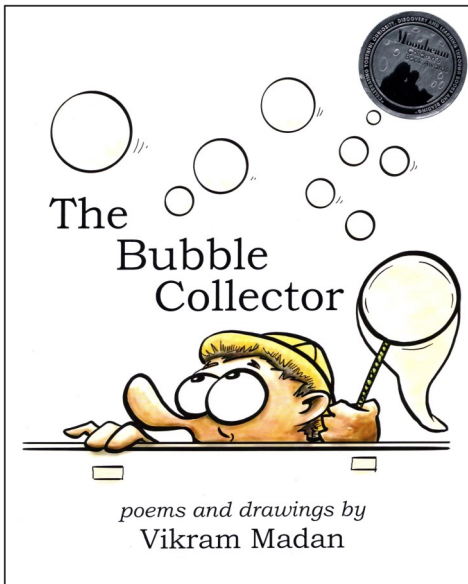
Poems and Drawings

by

Vikram Madan

Discussion Guide

for Teachers, Educators, and Families



About This Book

Award-winning author-artist Vikram Madan wrote *The Bubble Collector* to share his lifelong love for rhyming poetry. The book draws upon a long tradition of influences, features a wide variety of poetic forms and techniques, and blends funny poems and "madcap" drawings into a hilarious experience. This romp of a collection won a 2013 Moonbeam Award for Children's Poetry, was nominated for a 2014 Washington State Book Award, and is loved for its humor, diversity of poetic styles, and "for introducing children to the joys of poetry". Vikram's other poetry collections include *Lord of the Bubbles* and *A Hatful of Dragons*.

- "Freewheeling... Wisecracking... High-Spirited Read-Aloud" - PUBLISHERS WEEKLY
- "Lively and Kid-Friendly" - J. PATRICK LEWIS Former U.S. Children's Poet Laureate
- "Will have you bubbling over with laughs" - DOUGLAS FLORIAN Acclaimed Poet
- "Wonderfully illustrated" "Funny... Sophisticated" "As good as anything by Shel Silverstein!" "Quirky and delightful rhymes and illustrations!" "Charming, Funny, Delightful!" - SEATTLE AREA BOOKSELLERS

ISBN: 9781482397611 * 148 Pages * Paperback * For all ages (6 & Up) *

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION TOPICS

POETIC FORMS

- What are the various poetic forms poets can use when writing poetry? Why and when does a poet use one particular form over another? What is the importance of a form to a poem?
- Some poetic forms used in this book:
 - **Limericks:** Page 28
 - **Haiku:** Page 75
 - **Ballad:** Page 78
 - **Couplet:** Page 75 ('Wolf')
 - **Epistle:** Page 22
 - **Monorhyme:** Page 123
 - **Ode:** Page 92
 - **Parody:** Page 100, 114
 - **Quatrain:** Page 84 ('Star Light')
 - **Narrative Poem:** Page 44, 94, 118, 130
 - **Villanelle:** Page 136
- Web Resource:
<https://www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/list-of-50-poetic-forms-for-poets>

POETIC AND LITERARY DEVICES

- What techniques and devices do poets and writers use to create a more compelling reading experience? How do poets decide which technique to use when?
- Some examples of techniques used in this book:
 - **Allegory:** Page 42 (Is the poem 'The Bubble Collector' about chasing bubbles, or chasing dreams?)
 - **Alliteration:** Page 129
 - **Anaphora:** Page 66, 82
 - **Anastrophe:** Page 14
 - **Anthropomorphism:** Page 44
 - **Assonance:** Page 65 ('Camel')
 - **Hyperbole:** Page 54
 - **Internal Rhyme:** Page 68
 - **Metaphor:** Page 102
 - **Onomatopoeia:** Page 55 ('Woodpecker')
 - **Point of View:** First Person vs. Third person (many, many examples)
 - **Puns:** Page 18 ("pun-gent") Page 44 ("fun-gus", "m-old")
 - **Refrain:** Page 12
 - **Rhyme Schemes:** Tons of examples

- **Rhythm and Rhyme:** Tons of examples
- **Stanza:** Tons of examples
- **Substitution:** Page 31 ('Slug')
- Web resources:
 - <https://literary-devices.com/>
 - <https://poets.org/glossary>
 - <https://www.ereadingworksheets.com/figurative-language/poetic-devices/>
- Word play, puns, and made-up words
- Misdirection
- Exaggeration
- Ridiculous situations or characters
- Parody
- Web Resource:
 - https://secure.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/Books/Sample/22136Intro_chap01_x.pdf

INFLUENCES AND EVOLUTION

- Are poets and writers influenced by other poets and writers? In what ways did poetry—and language—evolve and change from the middle ages to the present? How do poets learn from the prior work of other poets? Compare the language and style of a current poet to a classic poet like Shakespeare?
- Examples of influences in this book:
 - Compare the limericks on Page 28 to the limericks of **Edward Lear**
 - Compare 'The Knight and the Dragon' (Page 94) to **Lewis Carroll's** 'You Are Old, Father William'
 - Compare 'Tale of the Itchy Witch' (Page 68) to **William Shakespeare's** 'Double, Double, Toil and Trouble' from MacBeth
 - Compare 'The Mocktopus' (Page 120) to **Edgar Allan Poe's** 'The Raven'. Then compare **Poe's** 'The Raven' to **Elizabeth Barrett Browning's** 'Lady Geraldine's Courtship'
 - Compare 'Six Men and the Dinosaur' (Page 100) to **John Godfrey Saxe's** 'The Blind Men and the Elephant'
 - Compare 'Ogre's Meal' (Page 114) to **Robert Frost's** 'The Road Not Taken'

HUMOR

- How does a writer make something funny? Why do we find some things relatively funnier than other things?
- Examples of techniques used to create humor in this book:
 - Surprise endings and unexpected outcomes

POETRY AS ART AND CRAFT

- Poetry is 'Art Made from Words'. How does a poet make intentional word-choices to convey a mood, feeling, emotion, or experience?
- Some examples of intentionally crafted poems from this book
 - 'Curse of the Catchy Tune' (Page 12) is about an endlessly repeating song stuck in the narrator's head. Note how the feeling of a endlessly-looping stuck song is highlighted by using a repetitive rhyming pattern (lots of words that rhyme with 'sound') and an incessantly repeated refrain ('...inside my head...').
 - 'Curses: A Villain-elle' (Page 136). In the Villanelle poetry form, the first and third line repeats again and again as an ending of the following stanzas. In what ways does this rhyming pattern mimic the obsessive/compulsive nature of a super-villain fixated on ruling the world?
 - 'Rowboat Full of Robots' (Page 124) - Robots excel at repetitive tasks. How is this mirrored in the poem through the use of words repeated twice, and assonance, consonance, and internal rhymes?
 - 'Impatient' (Page 17). Does the forced use of pauses in the end of each line create a sense of impatience in the reader to mimic the theme of the poem?
 - 'Chewing Gum' (Page 106). Does reading this poem aloud make your mouth feel as if it is actually chewing gum?