This year the Poetry Foundation selected J. Patrick Lewis as the 2011 Children’s Poet Laureate. Mr. Lewis has written over 50 books of poetry for children. In 1998 he retired from Otterbein College where he taught Business, Accounting, and Economics. He retired so he could write full time and visit schools to read his poetry. He said poetry "can transport children when they realize the beauty of language… When I read poetry, I’m always looking for that ‘ah ha!’ moment, and I like to bring that to children as well," he says. “On school visits, I like to think that if I can touch even one, two, or three kids in a school of 300 or 400 students, I’ve succeeded.”

**Bibliography of books by J. Patrick Lewis in the Poudre River Libraries:**
- Arithme-Tickle: An Even Number of Odd Riddle-Rhymes
- Big is Big (And Little Little): A Book of Contrasts
- Birds On A Wire: A Renga ‘round Town
- Black Swan/White Crow
- Blackbeard, The Pirate King: Several Yarns Detailing the Legends, Myths, and Real-Life Adventures
- The Bookworm’s Feast: A Potluck of Poems
- Boshblobberbosh: Runcible Poems for Edward Lear
- Castles: Old Stone Poems
- Doodle Dandies: Poems That Take Shape
- First Dog
- First Dog’s White House Christmas
- Good Mousekeeping: Animal Home Poems
- A Hippopotamusn’t and Other Animal Poems
- Isabella Abnormella and the Very, Very Finicky Queen of Trouble
- The Kindergarten Cat
- The Last Resort
- The Little Buggers
- Long Was the Winter Road They Traveled: A Tale of the Nativity
- Monumental Verses
- The Night of the Goat Children
- Once Upon a Tomb: Gravely Humorous Verses
- Please Bury Me in the Library
- Riddle-icious
- Skywriting: Poems to Fly
- The Snowflake Sisters
- Spot the Plot: A Riddle Book of Book Riddles
- Swan Song: Poems of Extinction
- Wing Nuts: Screwy Haiku
- The World’s Greatest: Poems

**What is a Children’s Poet Laureate?**

This is an honor bestowed on one poet who writes poetry for children. The first Children’s Poet Laureate was Jack Prelutsky in 2007. These poets work to help raise awareness and promote children’s poetry. They also receive a $25,000 prize. You can read more about poet laureates and about J. Patrick Lewis at [http://www.poetryfoundation.org/children/poet-laureate](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/children/poet-laureate)

Past children’s Poet Laureates are Jack Prelutsky (2007) and Mary Ann Hoberman (2008).