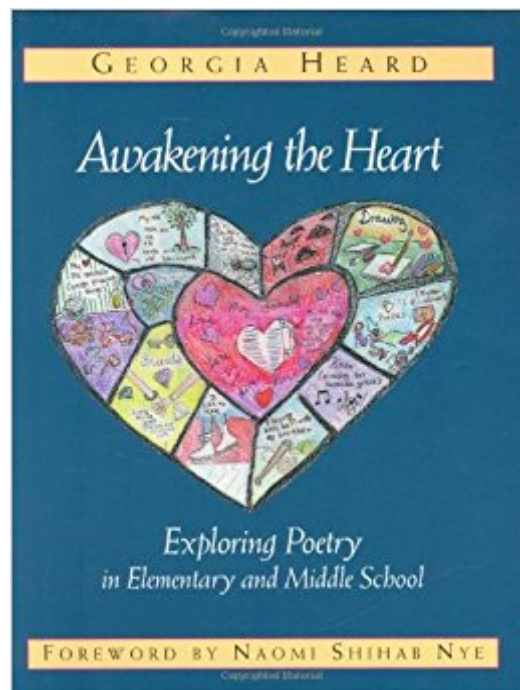




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Awakening The Heart: Exploring Poetry In Elementary And Middle School



Synopsis

Fans of the best-selling *For the Good of the Earth* and *Sun* will applaud this sequel by beloved author Georgia Heard - an inspiring and practical handbook that celebrates the natural power of poetry to teach the essential tools of all writing. *Awakening the Heart* explores how to cultivate the poet in every elementary and middle school student - through well-drawn examples, detailed exercises, creative projects, and down-to-earth classroom teachings. Along the way, we learn how to: create environments that encourage children to express their innate sense of wonder; introduce poetry that will engage them; and help children make the transition from reading and talking to writing. Best of all, *Awakening the Heart* is filled with luminous poems - by children, famous poets, and Heard herself.

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 13 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 8

Customer Reviews

“Awakening the Heart is a stirring personal reminder that encouraging children to discover the words and images of their own lives, as we discover our own, is a crucial devotion. We all need such books as lanterns and guides.”
—Naomi Shihab Nye

As a writer, a poet, and a founding member of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Georgia Heard continues to bring a poet's ear and a teacher's know-how to every aspect of writing

instruction. Her newest book, *Heart Maps*, provides 20 unique, multi-genre heart maps to help students write with purpose and authenticity. A heart mapping pioneer, Georgia has spent decades guiding students into more meaningful writing experiences by using heart maps to explore what we all hold inside: feelings, passions, vulnerabilities, and wonderings. Listen to Georgia talk about heart mapping on The Heinemann Podcast and explore the Heart Maps Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/heartmaps. Georgia is the author of *The Revision Toolbox*, Second Edition, *Finding the Heart of Nonfiction*, and *Writing Toward Home*, along with *Awakening the Heart* - which *Instructor Magazine* called one of its "12 Books Every Teacher Should Read." She is also the coauthor of *Climb Inside a Poem*, a curricular resource focused on how reading and writing poetry help teachers develop young students' language and literacy throughout the year. At the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Georgia worked for seven years as Senior Staff Developer in New York City schools. Today she travels the U.S. and the world as a consultant, visiting author, and keynote speaker in school districts and conferences. In addition to her Heinemann professional books, Georgia is the coauthor of the professional titles *Poetry Lessons to Meet the Common Core Standards* and *A Place for Wonder*, as well as children's literature such as *Falling Down the Page: A Book of List Poems*. Follow her on Twitter: @GeorgiaHeard1 Visit her website: GeorgiaHeard.com

A friend who teaches poetry in grade school recommended this book to me, and I'm glad she did. Although it's aimed at teachers and contains examples of student poems, this book can still inspire an adult who wants to write poetry and/or learn about poetry. In very few words Heard manages to get to the emotional heart of things, poetry included, and show us how we can organize our thoughts and feelings in clusters of notes, then shape those into a poem. This is a short book, but it's packed with so much information that you'll want to read it more than once.

Georgia Heard's book *Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School* suggests ways for teachers to help students have positive, successful experiences with appreciating poetry and creating their own poems. Heard gives poetry workshops for teachers and has worked in many classrooms with students at different grade levels in schools across the country. Her book, *Awakening the Heart*, reflects how far our understanding of the teaching of poetry has come: students will not come to see themselves as poets if poetry instruction is relegated to a "poetry unit" after state tests have been administered. Heard's book reaches out to teachers who haven't taught poetry in a workshop format before in that it offers the same descriptions of poetry and poetic terms

that she uses when she speaks to students, reteaching us the essentials of poetry as we prepare to teach others. She gives examples of directions useful in explaining the centers to students, and includes student work produced in classrooms Heard has worked in. The reader gains the confidence that taking time to gain inspiration from Heard's minilessons, coupled with dedication to a positive classroom environment that integrates poetry into daily life, will really help students to become poets who read poetry with understanding and craft it thoughtfully.

Georgia Heard is wonderful. This is an older book and not as reader/user friendly as *Finding the Heart of Nonfiction*, but it is a good read just the same. Poetry is an often overlooked subject in the classroom but it is an important tool to help kids find their voice when writing. It is also a great avenue to use to help students express themselves outside the confines of traditionally taught forms of writing.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone embarking upon the task of teaching poetry to students. It is a quick read with lots of ideas that you can implement into your teaching repertoire immediately. I particularly liked the poetry center study ideas, the student poetry samples throughout the book (many in the student's own handwriting), the anthology of student poetry, as well as, the mentor texts listed in Appendix B. This book has been most inspirational. I can't wait to begin using the information presented to help my students to appreciate poetry and to become poets. Additionally, after reading this book I am anxious to begin my own personal journey into writing poetry. Lastly, I would also recommend that you read Ms. Heard's book "For the Good of the Earth and Sun."

I love this well written book about how to teach poetry to children. The author made me think about why poetry is so important, how it can be enjoyed, and what not to do when introducing poetry to children. *Awakening the Heart* contains many practical and motivating strategies to integrate in the classroom curriculum. Georgia Heard inspired me to revise my language arts curriculum and adapt her ideas with my pre-service elementary teachers!

This book was a great read to introduce me to poetry, it's a must have!

I am a middle school teacher who found this book full of useful ideas which I have incorporated into my poetry unit. I also have Ms. Heard's book, *For the Good of the Earth and Sun*, and I found this

one (Heart)to contain more practical lessons on poetry mechanics. She describes the how-to's of poetic language, form, rhythm and rhyme, etc, which were easily adapted to fit my students' needs. I did have to do a lot of reading and typing (no ready-to-copy pages) but it was worth the effort. I esp loved the heart mapping and the six-room description process.

I absolutely love this book! Every teacher should read it for helpwith ideas of implementing a love for creative writing in their classroom.I used this for one of my education classes when learning about poetry.

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