

Messing Around on the Monkey Bars: and other School Poems for Two Voices

Betsy Franco

Jessie Hartland, Illustrator

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Remember reading aloud at school? It was either mortifying or stultifying. Reading aloud is essential for re-enforcing pronunciation, phrasing, vocabulary but for all those not doing the reading out loud it's deadly dull. That's why Franco's *Messing Around on the Monkey Bars* is such a great idea. Two voices can also mean two groups: two rows, boys and girls, back and front. Everyone is engaged because everyone acts and responds. Plus, the poems are fun, provocative, and include lots of onomatopoeics. Jessie Hartland's always fresh and lively illustrations are the perfect accompaniment. This book should be a standard in classrooms. Great for grades three through six.

HEATHER SHAW (June 16, 2009)

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