



## The Sun in Me: Poems About the Planet

**Beth Krommes, Illustrator**

**Judith Nicholls, Compiler**

Barefoot Books (February 2003)

Unknown \$16.99 (40pp)

978-1-84148-058-9

Just in time for Earth Day 2003 comes this lovely poetry collection in celebration of nature. Featuring poets ranging from Emily Dickinson to Sappho, this book will especially please parents who have faith in their children's abilities to enjoy poetry on a higher level than *Mother Goose*.

In keeping with the publisher's mission of "celebrating art and story" by inspiring children to "read deeper, search further, and explore their own creative gift," the editor has chosen poems representing many diverse styles, cultures, and time periods. From the spare haiku of Issa and Buson to the Caribbean rhythms of Grace Nichols, these selections are intended to open children's minds to the breadth and beauty of poetry as well as nature.

The poems also explore the child's relationship to nature, as in the title selection by British children's writer Moira Andrew: "The sun is in me, / pale morning flames / setting my still-sleeping / heart alight. // The wind is in me, / clear blue breath / leading / my bare feet / into a new day."

The remaining three stanzas praise the sea, the river, and the moon. The lovely and fanciful illustration shows a young Inuit girl riding an albatross above ice floes, polar bears, and walrus.

Nicholls is one of England's best-known children's poets and the author and compiler of nearly forty books of poetry. Yet her expertise accounts for only half of the book's worth; the remaining accolades belong to Krommes for her soft, rounded watercolors that provide a rich and gorgeous setting for each poem, perfectly capturing the mood of each selection with scenes of children interacting peacefully with the natural world.

SHARON FLESHER (May / June 2003)

*Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The author of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the author for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.*