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# The Blood-Hungry Spleen and Other Poems About Our Parts

Lillian Heil

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Wolf, Allan. *The Blood-Hungry Spleen and Other Poems About Our Parts*. Illustrated by Greg Clarke. Candlewick Press, 2003. ISBN 076361565X. \$17.99. 53 pp.

Reviewer: Lillian H. Heil;

Reading Level: All;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Poetry;

Subject: Body, human--Juvenile Poetry; Book--Reviews;

*The Blood Hungry Spleen*, by Allan Wolf, is a delightful book of poems about the human body. It is a whimsical but accurate description of each part. For example, "Your tongue is for chewing. For curling. For clicking. / It fits in you mouth like a bug in a rug. / Your tongue is for tasting and lollipop licking. / But hey, folks, let's face it. It looks like a slug!" Appropriately, Wolf created a poem with two voices for the kidneys. The Table of Contents has the same light hearted approach with sections such as "Parts That Bend" (fingers, toes, knees, elbows and ankles), "The Circulation Department" (heart, blood and spleen), and "The Production Department" (boy parts, girl parts, the cells that make us you and me). Notes at the end of the book describe more about body parts not fully explained in the poems. Greg Clarke did the comic strip style art that fits the mood of the book very nicely. Let's hope more books come from first time author Allan Wolf.