



2009

# Sky Magic

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Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *Sky Magic*. Illustrated by Mariusz Stawarski. Dutton Children's Books, 2009. ISBN 9780525478621. \$17.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Jan Staheli

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Poetry;

Subject: Sun--Juvenile fiction; Moon--Juvenile fiction; Stars--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Lee Bennett Hopkins has put together many fine collections of poetry for children, usually focused on a particular theme. In this new volume, *Sky Magic*, he has chosen poems about the sun, the moon and the stars--day and night. And in conjunction with illustrator Mariusz Stawarski, he has produced another quality book of poems, with selections by Alice Schertle, Tennessee Williams, Carl Sandberg, and others. They are short, bright and evocative, leaving clear images and language that is sometimes elegant and often whimsical, but always appealing, like this small gem by Tony Johnston.

Into the great sweep of silence  
Into the limitless space  
Into the wide loneliness  
One by one stars  
Come singing.

I  
love  
stars.

Stawarski's work is simple but intense, with moodily saturated color in combination with quirky, fascinating illustrations that disclose much the poems leave unsaid. This book of poems would be a great way to introduce the imaginative connection between text and pictures. It would be a wonderful addition to anyone's library.

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