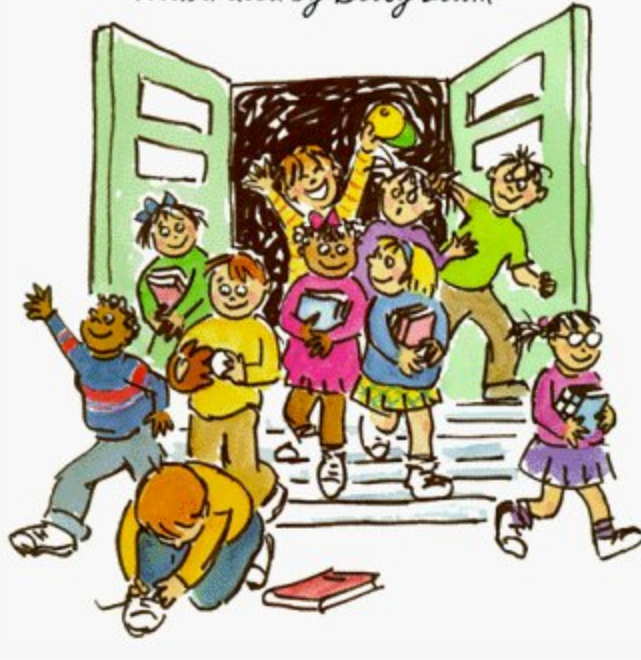


SOMEBODY CATCH MY HOMEWORK

Poems by David L. Harrison
Illustrated by Betsy Lewin



- **Paperback:** 30
- pages
- **Publisher:**
- Boyds Mills Press
- **Language:**
- English

Somebody Catch My Homework

* Kirkus Reviews

In his first collection of verse, the author of *Little Boy Soup* (1990) catches the school scene, from missing the bus on Monday morning to snuggling in with “This book in bed/This first FIRST book/I’ve ever read.” In the meantime, there are not only challenges (“Does a capitol Q/That looks like a 2/Make sense to you?”) but emergencies (“I’vegottogotothebathroom/The bathroom the bathroom” has a comically urgent rhythm), rivalries, romance, and the quintessential “worst boy in the whole class” – “wilder than a billygoat/And meaner than a pig”; school food; an impossible assignment (“But I’m half wild with fright./You said to write two pages/And get them done tonight!”); there’s also the title poem, an amusing tall tale of an excuse. It’s all recognizable, neatly scanned, and genuinely funny. Lewin catches the lively characters – quizzical, wide-eyed, mischievous or rueful – in just a few broad, adroitly drawn black lines to which she adds watercolor in cheerful colors. A winner – to read aloud, pass around, and chortle over again. (*Poetry*. 6-11)

School Library Journal

Gr 2-4-- What do kids think about, complain about, worry about, and laugh about more than anything else? School, and in this collection of poetry, they'll enjoy reading about it. All the expected subjects are here with unexpected twists: cursive writing ("Who dreams up these curlicues?"); catching the bus ("Scads of time/ What's the fuss? Two to dress/ One to flush,"); school lunches ("The applesauce is a watery/ Goo/ But suck it right down 'cause it's good/ For you."). "My Excuse" is a wild explanation addressed to a teacher recounting the "true" fate of a child's homework. "Bobby Gene McQuig" may be a little gross for most adult tastes, but children will get a charge out of this obnoxious boy whose finger gets stuck up his nose. There's plenty of white space to set off each of the poems, and the large print is ideal for beginning readers. Also appealing are Lewin's watercolor/felt marker illustrations that capture the lively, outrageous subjects visually. Reminiscent of the styles of Prelutsky and Silverstein, this book will not collect dust on library shelves. --Lee Bock, Brown County Public Libraries, Green Bay, WI

BookList

Light comic verse and cartoon pictures in line and wash capture grade school mayhem, from show-and-tell ("Billy brought his snake to school") and excuses for lost homework to the worst boy in the whole class, whose finger gets stuck up his nose. These aren't the kind of poems that stay in your head, but the immediacy and slapstick will make kids laugh about bullies, cursive writing, tests, deadlines, and other daily stresses.

New York State Reading Association Book Banter from the Children's Literature Committee

Somebody Catch My Homework. The title says it all. This book reflects the many feelings, problems, and experiences that children face everyday at school. The children will laugh and relate to the child who has "One Thing on My Mind" as he sits in class, "I'vegottogotothebathroom." A wonderful group of poems to encourage writing especially about common problems and experiences.

Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18

Somebody Catch My Homework exposes children to the beauty of poetry. It speaks about a familiar subject to all children – school. This book is a great vehicle to introduce children to the many faucets of poetry. Reviewed by Elizabeth Connelly, Wilkes-Parre Academy.