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# Love That Dog



## Synopsis

The Newbery Medal-winning author of *Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech, brings readers a story with enormous heart. *Love That Dog* shows how one boy named Jack finds his voice with the help of a teacher, a pencil, some yellow paper, and of course, a dog. Written as a series of free-verse poems from Jack's point of view, and with classic poetry included in the back matter, this novel is perfect for kids and teachers, too. Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments. And Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns that he does have something to say. "I guess it does look like a poem when you see it typed up like that."

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010 (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (March 1, 2001)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 330 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,633 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#) #27 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#) #71 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech's *Love That Dog*, a funny, sweet, original short novel written in free verse, introduces us to an endearingly unassuming, straight-talking boy who discovers the powers and pleasures of poetry. Against his will. After all, "boys don't write poetry. Girls do." What does he say of the famous poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"? "I think Mr. Robert Frost / has a little / too / much / time / on his / hands." As his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, introduces

the canon to the class, however, he starts to see the light. Poetry is not so bad, it's not just for girls, and it's not even that hard to write. Take William Carlos Williams, for example: "If that is a poem / about the red wheelbarrow / and the white chickens / then any words / can be a poem. / You've just got to / make / short / lines." He becomes more and more discerning as the days go by, and readers' spirits will rise with Jack's as he begins to find his own voice through his own poetry and through that of others. His favorite poem of all is a short, rhythmic one by Walter Dean Myers called "Love That Boy" (included at the end of the book with all the rest of Ms. Stretchberry's assignments). The words completely captivate him, reminding him of the loving way his dad calls him in the morning and of the way he used to call his yellow dog, Sky. Jack's reverence for the poem ultimately leads to meeting the poet himself, an experience he will never forget. This winning, accessible book is truly remarkable in that Creech lets us witness firsthand how words can open doors to the soul. And this from a boy who asks, "Why doesn't the person just / keep going if he's got / so many miles to go / before he sleeps?" (Ages 8 to 12) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wolf's (Party of Five) bright, boyish voice brings to life Creech's novel-in-free-verse about a student's enlightening year of course work. As school starts in September, Jack is not eager to embark on Miss Stretchberry's poetry writing assignments. "I don't want to/ because boys/ don't write poetry./ Girls do." But Jack's attitude soon changes. As Miss Stretchberry reads the works of great poets (Robert Frost, Valerie Worth, William Blake) to the class and encourages Jack's writing efforts, Jack discovers his unique voice--and a true talent for creative expression. The culmination of Jack's great year is a classroom visit from Mr. Walter Dean Myers, who wrote what Jack considers "the best best BEST/ poem/ ever," called "Love That Boy," a selection that has become the boy's biggest inspiration. Wolf plays Jack with a realistic, respectful and contemporary tone. He nimbly conveys surprise, wonder and heartfelt emotion without sounding sentimental or affected, a quality that will have many young listeners enthralled. Ages 8-up. Copyright 2002 Cahnerns Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Let me start by saying that I loved the author's writing. Sharon Creech is always good, and I think my kids would love this book... IF this edition were complete! The description of the print edition says that there are eight poems in the end material that inspired the narrator's response- I thought that was a great feature, and it was the reason I bought the book! I am bitterly disappointed that they were not included in the ebook.

Kimberly's Book Review The book Love That Dog is about Jack, Sky, and poetry. Jack likes the short poems the best, and so do I. Jack loves his dog named Sky. [Spoiler alert] I don't like it when Sky never wakes up again because it makes me feel sad. Sky is cute, yellow, and drools a lot. That's the part I like the most. I am 7 years old. I would recommend this book to 6 year old kids and older.

Lauren's book review This book is about a little boy named Jack. He learns to read and write poems at school but thinks they are for girls not boys. After reading some poems he starts to like poetry and writes a poem about his yellow dog. I am 8 years old and I liked this book. It was easy to read. I liked it because it is emotional and funny at the same time. Any age can read this book.

Carolyn's Book Review The book Love That Dog is full of poems. It's a really good book. Jack is a boy. He talked about his yellow dog named Sky. [Spoiler Alert] Sky was run over by a blue, muddy car. It makes me sad a little. I like this book because Jack's yellow dog is cute. I also like how he did his poem that was shaped like Sky. It's a medium sized book. I am 9 and I'd highly recommend this book to 1st grade students and up.

Katelyn's Book Review: I really liked the book Love That Dog. I liked it because it told a really good story about Jack's life and his dog Sky. In the beginning I did not like it, I thought it was boring. But then it got very interesting and I wanted to keep reading it forever. I really liked that it was funny and sad at the same time. Sharon Creech made poems really funny and enjoyable to read. I really loved Love That Dog.

My child came home from school completely enamored by this book. When I read it with him, I was hooked as well. I'm not a professional reviewer like so many others here, but I am a mom who has read countless books with her kids. And this one is outstanding. What I love about this book is that it covertly introduces poetry to kids. And it hooks them by introducing them to what I'm going to call "mind benders" like "The Red Wheelbarrow." It's also written like a response journal. I'm so thrilled that the dots are not connected here, that you have to think and infer and create the missing parts of the narrative. I also love that it introduces poetry to kids in a non-threatening way. (The main character doesn't understand some poems and writes "honestly" about that in his journal.) I found my child completely agreeing -- what DOES the poem about the red wheelbarrow and the white chickens mean??? The author brilliantly includes the poems she references (the back of the book) so you can read them while/after reading the book itself. I cannot say enough great things about this book.

This is a lovely book written in a very long poetic form instead of a narrative story . The topic is so sentimental and spot on relatable to any pet owner that feels that feels very much attached to his /her choicicezz

I first read this book in elementary school like in 2nd-4th grade (2003-2005) and I dont know why I've always had the cover of this book in my memories. I didnt get a dog until recently (2015,Golden Retriever: Lola), so its not that. Maybe it's because someone killed a gold/ blonde dog my grandma had in mexico that i loved to play with(2007/2008). His name was Doggy, I named him when I was little. Im just realizing that Doggy was probably the reason for why I've had it stuck in my head. Anyway, this book is just as good as i remember it, if not better.

I read this amazing book for the first time a little over a year ago. I have subsequently read it to myself 2 more times, to my 9-year-old daughter once, and to my now 7-year-old daughter twice. Yea, we love it that much. This book is just meant to be read aloud and discussed. When we read it today, I read the daily diary part and my younger daughter read the poem excerpts as we came to them so we passed the book back and forth. So much fun! We both still cried when we reached May 14th. This is just literature at its finest. I cannot recommend this enough.

I'm a mom, grandmother, and a retired teacher. Initially I wanted to read this book to see if it would be something my granddaughter would like. I'm not sure so much that this is a younger kid's book. I loved it, though! It made me think of so many students I've worked with over the years, their fears and struggles and growth. You portrayed the stop and start, sometimes halting progress of learning a new thing followed by the joy of truly enjoying it in time. Thank you!

This low review is not for the book, it's for the kindle edition. I love this book! At the end of the paper book, there are copies of the poems Jack is reading. You can see what he is reacting to and how he is using them as a model. They are not in this edition. Very disappointing.

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