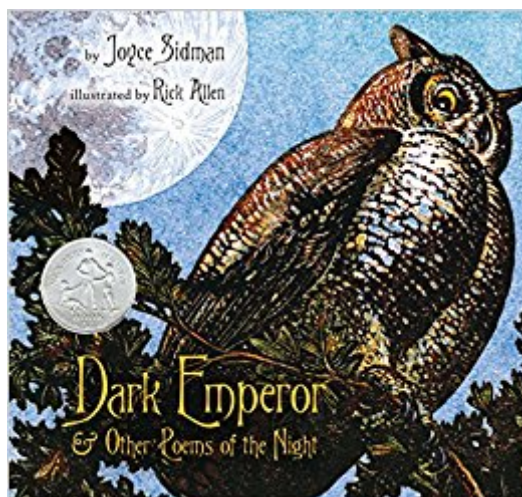


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# Dark Emperor And Other Poems Of The Night



## Synopsis

A 2011 Newbery Honor Book  
Come feel the cool and shadowed breeze, come smell your way among the trees, come touch rough bark and leathery leaves: Welcome to the night. Welcome to the night, where mice stir and furry moths flutter. Where snails spiral into shells as orb spiders circle in silk. Where the roots of oak trees recover and repair from their time in the light. Where the porcupette eats delicacies  
raspberry leaves  
and coos and sings. Come out to the cool, night wood, and buzz and hoot and howl  
but do beware of the great horned owl  
for it's wild and it's windy way out in the woods! This Newbery Honor-winning picture book combines beautifully written poetry with facts of the forest and elaborate illustrations to form a marvelously engaging collection.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 6, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547152280

ISBN-13: 978-0547152288

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #224,844 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Forests & Trees #165 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Biology #247 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 3-6  
Sidman continues her explorations of natural history in this set of poems about nocturnal life in the forest. As in her other collections, each selection is set in an expansive spread that includes a factual discussion of the featured subject. The illustrations are bold, richly detailed linoleum prints colored in gouache. The 12 poems are led by a scene setting  
"Welcome to the Night  
and go on to feature 9 different creatures and some mushrooms with a

concluding lament by the moon as night fades into morning. Sidman adroitly applies varied poetic forms and rhyme schemes. The title's dark emperor, the great horned owl, lends its shape to the one concrete poem, and the closing lament is in the medieval style known as an ubi sunt. The poetry is reflective and at times philosophical. "Build a frame/and stick to it,/I always say./Life's a circle|Eat your triumphs,/eat your mistakes:/that way your belly/will always be full|," advises the night spider. Other poems are playful and some just a bit confusing. The porcupine poem explains that the infant of this species is known as a porcupette; the repeated use of "baby porcupette" seems oddly redundant. The bookmaking is beautiful with the concept of night lending itself generously to poetry. It invites lingering enjoyment for nature and poetry fans, and, as with Sidman's earlier collections, it might be used with varied curriculums. Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Boston © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

**\*Starred Review\*** Like Sidman's Caldecott Honor Book, *Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems* (2005), this picture book combines lyrical poetry and compelling art with science concepts. Here, poems about the woods at night reveal exciting biology facts that are explained in long notes on each double-page spread. In a poem about crickets, lines describe "the raucous scrape / of wing against wing," while a prose passage explains that the cricket's wing has a serrated "file," which the cricket rubs against a hard "scraper" on its other wing to attract a mate, creating a sound called "stridulation" that can swell to deafening levels. The facts are further reinforced in the accompanying picture, which shows the small file on a cricket's wing. In an opening note, Allen explains his elaborate, linoleum-block printmaking technique, and each atmospheric image shows the creatures and the dense, dark forest with astonishing clarity. Looking closely at a picture of a snail, for example, readers will see the physical detail, described in an adjacent poem, in the small animals' moist, sluglike bodies, "riding on a cushion of slime." The thrilling title poem captures the drama of predator and prey: a mouse in the undergrowth flees an owl's "hooked face and / hungry eye." A final glossary concludes this excellent, cross-curricular title. Grades 3-6. --Hazel Rochman

The illustrations are absolutely fabulous -- and not just immediately gratifying, there is much to discover in a close look, just as there is at night. The poems vary in style and are variable in their effectiveness for me. This is definitely NOT a collection of laugh out loud silly poems -- for that, turn

to Douglas Florian who is a master in the art of converting animals to giggles. Only 1 poem has held the attention of my long attention span 2 year old, but I am betting that will change in a year or two. She is happy to look at & talk about the pictures. I think this would be a great for the early elementary set. Note that one page has a very large image of a spider and several pages have spiders in the background -- it's not for arachnophobes!

Highly recommended for creative writing and English teachers. I wish I'd found this one several years before I retired, because it's the kind I had my students imitate as alternate research papers. It has ok poems about various night animals, plants, etc with sidebars containing factual information about each topic. Fun for kids who like poetry, animals, night, and informative nonfiction.

Beautiful illustration, engaging poetry. My children, who are both big animal lovers, just love it. Perfect for bedtime story time!

These poems are wonderful, they share a real appreciation for the nighttime side of nature. The illustrations are lovely, and each page even has a little informational paragraph about the subject of the poem (snails, owls, mushrooms, etc). I read these to my daughter all the time.

There was so much poetic language and description from a poet's eye. My favorite poem in the book is welcome to the night because of the dark rhyming language

Another brilliant collection from Joyce Sidman. These poems really keep the kids attention when read during summer camps at the nature center. I find them useful and inspiring.

Great book!

The author really captures the essence of the night and all it's creatures in these sweet and simple poems. Easy to see why this book is an award winner. You can almost smell the night and hear the sounds of it's creatures in these poems. Very nice.

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