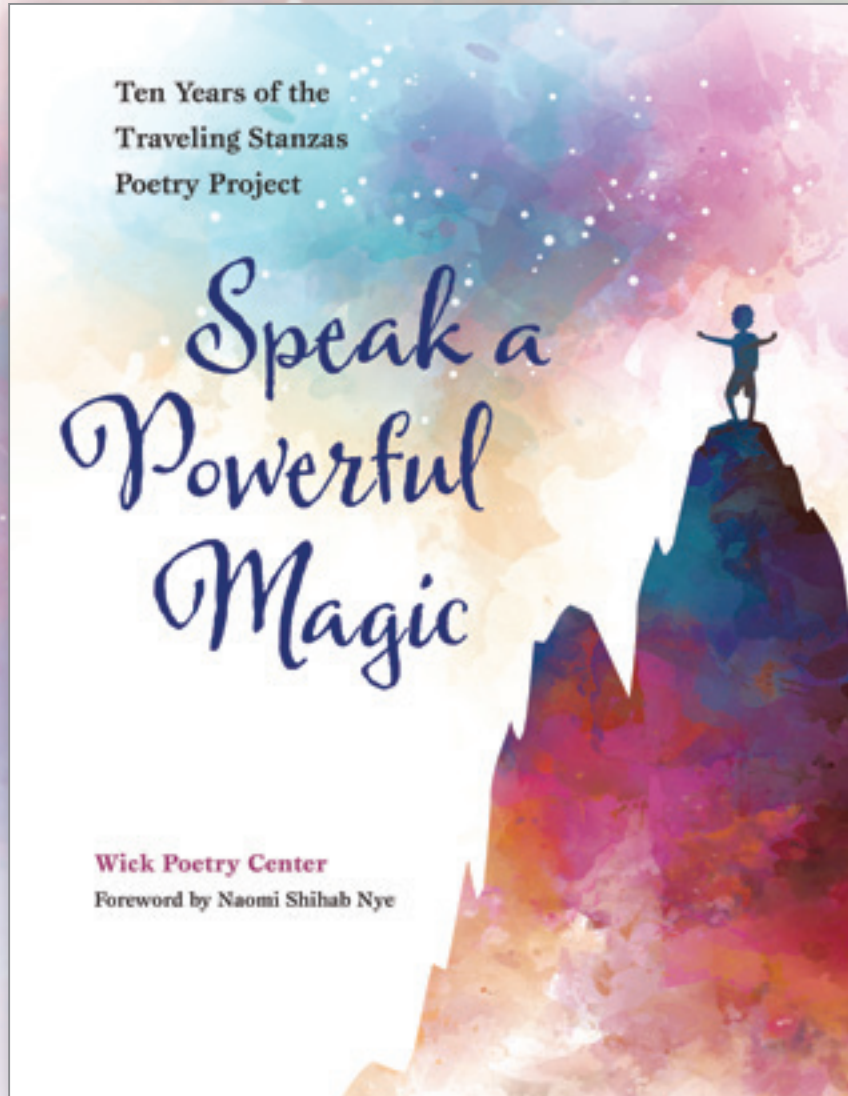


Bringing unique poetry and artwork to the classroom to prompt student writing and spark conversation.



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# Speak a Powerful Magic

Ten Years of the Traveling Stanzas Poetry Project

*Speak a Powerful Magic* features poems by schoolchildren, immigrants and refugees, patients and caregivers, and veterans, alongside the work of well-known contemporary American poets—demonstrating that poetry is truly of the people.

“Traveling Stanzas is an exercise in invitation—to poets and artists to collaborate, and to unsuspecting readers to engage with poetry. By infusing enchantingly designed poems into the public sphere, the Wick Poetry Center succeeds in reminding us that the magical power of a poem is that it can stop us in our tracks and unlock in our minds the voice of another. The more we listen to and imagine the experiences of others, the more we learn to travel together.”

—**Jennifer Benka**, President & Executive Director of the Academy of American Poets

“Bless the makers of this book. Bless the illustrators and poets whose voices and souls illuminate every page. This is a collection to be savored, not only for its beauty but for its deep humanity. We are reminded again and again of our common bonds. Bless the wonder that is poetry, embodied in the words of Mrs. Price’s high school students, ‘Poems live in the vibrations of the world, stretching out to everyone and everything.’” —**Ellen Bass**, author of *Like a Beggar*

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**Inside a Whisper**

Charge inside a whisper,  
That is what I would do...  
and become freer word to word.  
writing clarity, clarity  
words that reserve  
inside and out, and grace  
from one atom to another.

Outside a whisper it is quiet,  
like butterflies in a field,  
while inside, it is a different world,  
where creative sparks and tongues,  
they learn to deliver them  
to the next person.

—John Lewis, USA  
4<sup>th</sup> grade, Hidden Elementary School, Kent  
Design by Braver-Collison ©2018

**Witness The River**

Witness the river,  
the way it gathers ancient words  
ignites the whispering essences  
and vital essence.

Witness the loneliness of the dead,  
have it surge for you,  
but can't quite reach you.

Witness the strange power  
floating through you,  
traveling clarity,  
and breaking against your ankles—  
and breaking against your ankles—  
and breaking against your ankles—  
if you witness the river.

Witness the river,  
the way it gathers ancient words  
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**my mother**

Witness your own like the surface  
of a quiet sea  
whose words were like your words  
writing clarity clarity  
whose words were like your words  
like you  
so I could see the right way  
My mother whose face  
was like a garden  
Every time I looked at her  
I recall seeing my fragrant flowers  
—John Lewis

**a winter sunset**

At the foot of the hill,  
the trees have pulled on  
boots of abasolse. Where,  
I ask them, do they think  
they're going? "Round  
the world," they answer,  
"back by morning."  
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**Ode to My Body**

Witness the ear  
a gateway for language  
that receives  
words with wisdom  
that give you  
the ability to  
communicate with  
the world  
Witness the nose  
that filters  
the air  
and sends it  
to the lungs  
where the words  
are born  
Witness the mouth  
that takes in  
the words  
and sends them  
to the tongue  
where the words  
are born  
Witness the heart  
that pumps  
the blood  
throughout  
the body  
Witness the brain  
that thinks  
and creates  
the words  
that give life  
to the words

**HEALING HANDS**

WE HEAL THAT SOUVENED MIND  
PROVES THAT THING  
YOU CARE TO BELIEVE  
WE HEALING IS TO  
TEND AND CARE  
HEARD AND CARED  
FIRST RESPONDERS  
FIRST RESPONDERS  
FIRST RESPONDERS  
FIRST RESPONDERS  
FIRST RESPONDERS  
FIRST RESPONDERS  
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