The Language of Conservation

Explore the Zoo in a new way!

The Milwaukee County Zoo, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Public Library have partnered together in a national poetry grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The following poets and their work were chosen by our Poet in Residence, Pattiann Rogers, to help increase our connections with animals and the environment.

We hope these poems will inspire you and enrich your visit here at the Zoo.

1. William Blake, “Auguries of Innocence”
2. Wendell Berry, “The Peace of Wild Things”
3. Genesis, King James Translation
4. Seasonal Poem - changes
5. Gray Jacobik, “Flamingos”
7. Wendell Berry, “Prayers and Sayings of the Mad Farmer”
10. Anonymous, Navajo Indian, “In Beauty May I Walk”
11. Ibedayo Oshin, “Africa of Nigeria”
13. May Swenson, “Motherhood”
14. William Wordsworth, “She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways”
15. Lucille Clifton, “Breaklight”
17. Pablo Neruda, “Some Beasts”
18. Robin Chapman, “Dancers”
19. David Wagoner, “Lost”
22. Donna J. Long, “First Winter Grace”
23. Knud Rasmussen, “Old Song of the Musk Ox People”
24. Reg Saner, “This Grizzly”
25. Linda Hogan, “Elk Song”
27. Albert Goldbarth, “Or of Anything”
28. Walt Whitman, “Give me the Splendid Silent Sun”
30. Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Inversnain”
31. Rabindranath Tagore, “Light, My Light, the World-filling Light”
32. Mary Fullerton, “Emus”
33. Barron Field, “The Kangaroo”
34. Maria Melendez, “Auüido”
35. Pamela Uschuk, “Wolf Lecture”
36. Karen Shragg, “Think Like a Tree”
37. Kathleen Dean Moore, “Howling with Strangers”
38. Walt Whitman, “Give me the Splendid Silent Sun”
40. John Haines, “To Turn Back”
41. John Haines, “And When the Green Man Comes”
42. Jorge Luis Borges, “The Other Tiger”
43. Marilyn Taylor, “In Tanzania”
44. Les Murray, “Dreambabwe”
45. Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, “I Watched an Eagle Soar”
46. Rabindranath Tagore, from Fireflies
47. Emily Dickinson, “The Bee”
48. Jay Harjo, “Remember”
49. Marge Piercy, “To Be of Use”
50. Marge Piercy, “Digging In”
51. Rudyard Kipling, “The Butterfly That Stamped”
52. Robert Louis Stevenson, “The Cow”
53. Walt Whitman, “Song of Myself”
54. Tom Hansen, “Jump-Rope Rhyme”
56. Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Inversnain”
57. Genesis, King James Translation
58. Seasonal Poem - changes
59. Gray Jacobik, “Flamingos”
60. Li-Young Lee, “Praise Them”
61. Wendell Berry, “Prayers and Sayings of the Mad Farmer”
63. Eamon Grennan, “What Matter”
64. Anonymous, Navajo Indian, “In Beauty May I Walk”
65. Ibedayo Oshin, “Africa of Nigeria”
66. Pattiann Rogers, “Animals and People: The Human Heart in Conflict with Itself”
67. May Swenson, “Motherhood”
68. William Wordsworth, “She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways”
69. Lucille Clifton, “Breaklight”
70. Alison Apotheker, “Why I Said Jellyfish”
71. Pablo Neruda, “Some Beasts”
72. Robin Chapman, “Dancers”
73. David Wagoner, “Lost”
74. Theodore Roethke, “The Waking”
75. Theodore Roethke, “The Bat”
76. Donna J. Long, “First Winter Grace”
77. Knud Rasmussen, “Old Song of the Musk Ox People”
78. Reg Saner, “This Grizzly”
79. Linda Hogan, “Elk Song”
80. John Montagne, “The Trout”
81. Albert Goldbarth, “Or of Anything”
82. Walt Whitman, “Give me the Splendid Silent Sun”