



## Thinksheet

Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Flutter and Hum: Animal Poems** By Julie Paschkis

**Aleteo y Zumbido : Poemas de Animales**

### Classroom Activities

- <https://juliepaschkis.com/>- Visit the author and illustrator’s website for her biography and extension ideas!
- [Flutter and Hum Bilingual Read Aloud](#) - Celebrate Poetry with some great poems! Read in English and Spanish by Tía Paty at the Houston Public Library.
- [Flutter and Hum: Animal Poems Classroom Ideas](#)
- [National Geographic for Kids Animal Videos and Extension Activities](#)

“Slithering / through the grass / the sinuous snake/ is writing/ a slippery poem / with his body.” The twelve poems in a new bilingual picture book anthology feature a variety of animals and emphasize their unique characteristics. Composing first in Spanish, author/illustrator Julie Paschkis illustrates how words and images can illuminate our view of the natural world. The animal subjects of the poems include those that are domestic and wild, large and small, and many are familiar for young readers. The poems are brief, yet deep, inviting shifts in perception on the part of the reader. For example, the poem about a crow in the rain concludes: “He hops, / stops, / and stares/ at a yellow umbrella — / the only sun shining / today.”

While English and Spanish versions of the poems appear on facing pages, the illustrations span the double page spread. As she has done in previous works, Paschkis has woven words into the visual images; English words related to the poem appear on one side, while Spanish words decorate the page that holds the Spanish version. Rendered in gouache, the intricate images deeply extend the concepts represented in the poems. There is so much to see, so much to talk about. This carefully crafted celebration of word, image, and nature will most certainly inspire creativity in classrooms.



These resources were prepared by GELF’s Educator Advisory Council, a group of 28 Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books distributed to students over the summer.

Access more resources at [BookersBookClub.org/Activities](https://BookersBookClub.org/Activities)





## Thinksheet

Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### Environmental Print

It is often recommended to primary grade teachers that items in the classroom be labeled so that students can view the words and reinforce speech-to-print connections using familiar objects. As a twist on this activity, take inspiration from Paschki's illustrations and work with your students to create labels that describe rather than name. For example, the pencil sharpener might be labeled "pointy, or the easel labeled "display." Generate lists of words that describe objects' or locations' attributes or functions and then pick the word that best fits. Consider creating bi- or multi-lingual labels, representing all the languages spoken by the students in your classroom.

**National Poetry Month, April**, is a marvelous opportunity to celebrate the expressiveness, delight, and pure charm of poetry. It is a special occasion that reminds us of the integral role of poets and poetry in our cultures.

### Compose a Class Animal Poem Anthology.

Use *Flutter & Hum* along with other poetry with animal subjects as mentor texts for students' composition of animal poetry. Select several poems to focus on as a whole class, conducting a close reading of the poems – invite students to consider carefully how the poet has carefully selected words to convey content, to create imagery, and to play with the sounds of language. Note the variety in the animals poems – some of them might be informational as well as being aesthetic (see for example, the animal poems in Joyce Sidman's *Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold*); others, might focus more on capturing the essence of the animal (many of the poems in *Flutter & Hum* have this focus). After much exposure to mentor texts, students are ready to begin the process of composing their own animal poems. Encourage children who speak another language to compose the poem in that language first if they like and then create a bilingual version of it. These can be compiled in an anthology and shared with students' families and schoolmates.

### Looking for Animal Poetry Inspiration?

- [Types Of Poetry | DK Find Out](#)
- [Poetry for Kids | Learn about the different types of poetry and the parts of a poem.](#)
- [BrainPop Introduction to Poetry](#)
- [National Geographic for Kids Animal Videos and Extension Activities](#)



These resources were prepared by GELF's Educator Advisory Council, a group of 28 Tennessee educators, to encourage engagement with the K-3 Home Library books distributed to students over the summer.

Access more resources at [BookersBookClub.org/Activities](https://BookersBookClub.org/Activities)

