The Storyteller

A Selection of Signed Poetry Broadsides (& Some Poetry Bookmarks)
by Jane Yolen
Jane Yolen is an author of children’s books, fantasy, and science fiction, including *Owl Moon*, *The Devil’s Arithmetic*, and *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight*?

She is also a poet, a teacher of writing and literature, and a reviewer of children’s literature. She has been called the Hans Christian Andersen of America and the Aesop of the twentieth century.

Jane Yolen’s books and stories have won the Caldecott Medal, two Nebula Awards, two Christopher Medals, the World Fantasy Award, three Mythopoeic Fantasy Awards, the Golden Kite Award, the Jewish Book Award, the World Fantasy Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Association of Jewish Libraries Award among many others.

*(photo and biography courtesy of her website)*
Thorn-Torn Skirt, Muddy Boots

I walk down the known path,
tears in my skirt like open eyes,
mud on my boots heavy as dreams.
Queen Anne's Lace bends as I pass,
aconite sulk by the fence post,
soon it will be time for the fire
of rosebay willowherb to scorch
every border and roadside.
Ahead a solitary oak watches me
watching him, two stiff old souls
acknowledging one another.
Do not dismiss the ordinary natures
for they have led extraordinary lives,
and their stories are waiting to be told,
waiting for you to tell them.

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The Sound of Beating

"Eventually the geese flew out of the poem, but I like to think they left behind the sound of their beating wings."  — Stanley Kunitz

May I borrow those wing beats, my old teacher;
the hush-wheed of them, the cloven of air:
Surely, they’re no use to you now,
fllying off on wings of your own

to poet’s heaven, where you argue about
inconceivability and adverbs, the intimacy of poetry,
that secret reality the perfect line knows.
The sound of feather on air, absence of notion,
notion made as concrete as cloud
all illuminate the morning sky.
We do not say that sound aloud,
but feel its beat beneath the breastbone
whenever we read your particular poem.

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Jane Yolen, of 50

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A Specific Gravity

Sometimes a poem,
sometimes merely a thought,
reaches a specific gravity
and greenness begins.
Like a fingerling swimming
against the pool’s pull,
dark green question mark.
Like the uncurling fern,
the top of a fiddle,
ever to be played
except in the retinal memory.
Like the quick thrust
of daffs before the winter
is quite over,
before spring quite begins.
Quick green thoughts.
Sometimes just like that.

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Jerusalem, Another Side

"It's late but everything comes next."
--Naomi Shihab Nye

That clock stands at five to midnight,
or if you shift your head slightly,
five to noon. Your choice.
These things are always a choice.
We do not have to build more barriers.
They will unbuild themselves in time.
The world is like that if we let it
un-sew, unknit, loosen the bonds.
I like to think of us walking backwards,
finding a vineyard, sitting on the ground,
eating dates, drinking the sweet water
gushing from the desert, making flowers grow.
I do not throw stones. You shall not eat them.
Shalom aleichem I say softly to you.
You respond, aleichem shalom.
It is the start of everything.

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Words Are Like Moles

Tunneling, always tunneling,
into the deep, the dark places,
the worm larders, the velvet night
where breath is moist and soft
and quiet is complete,
where there are no traces of light
until we poets hang the stars.

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This is one of the 26 author's copies. 11"x17".

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Each bookmark features a poem by Jane Yolen and is signed by the author.
Fine condition. $60

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Grammar Rules
The Good Ending
How to Write a Poem: A Bite-Sized Sonnet
A Poem Is
Making Story Soup
Advice
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