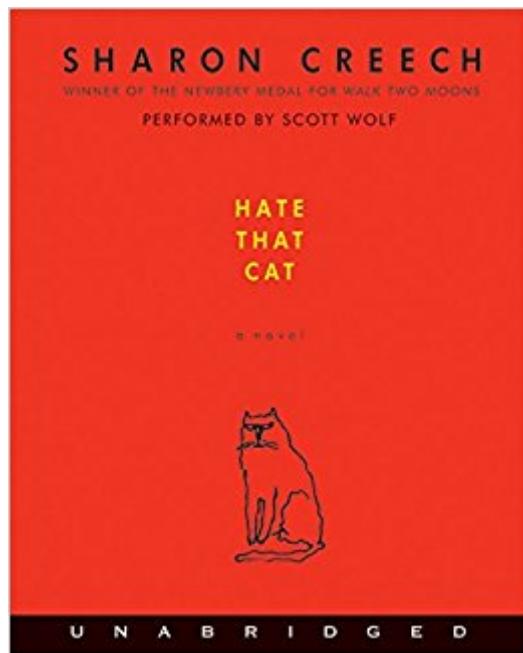


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# Hate That Cat CD



## **Synopsis**

Return to Miss Stretchberry's class with Jack, the reluctant poet, who over the course of a year encounters new and challenging things like metaphors, alliterations, onomatopoeia, and one mean fat black cat! The Newbery Medal-winning author of *Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech, introduced Jack in *Love That Dog*, a New York Times bestseller. Both *Love That Dog* and *Hate That Cat* are approachable, funny, warm-hearted introductions to poetry told from the point of view of a very real kid wrestling with school assignments. These books are fast reads that will be welcomed by middle graders as they too wonder how poetry and schoolwork connect with their interests and how to uncover their true voices. In *Hate That Cat*, Jack is only trying to save that fat black cat stuck in the tree by his bus stop— but the cat scratches him instead! At school Miss Stretchberry begins teaching new poems, everything from William Carlos Williams to Valerie Worth to T.S. Eliot. As the year progresses, Jack gradually learns to love that cat and finds new ways to express himself.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: HarperFestival; Unabridged edition (September 23, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061658227

ISBN-13: 978-0061658228

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.6 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 81 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #816,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #103 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Animals #1225 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 4— In this worthy sequel to *Love That Dog* (HarperCollins, 2001), Jack is once again in Miss Stretchberry's class, developing his poetry composition skills and learning from the masters. His Uncle Bill disparages the free-verse form and mundane subjects, stressing the importance of metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and LARGE moments. But Jack works his way into these concepts by means of Miss S's introduction to the work of Edgar Allan Poe, T. S. Eliot,

William Carlos Williams, Valerie Worth, and Walter Dean and Chris Myers, and her constant encouragement of his own attempts. Jack, still healing from the loss of his dog, resists getting a new pet and despises an aloof neighborhood black cat with which he has an unpleasant run-in. He also grapples with putting into words his feelings about his mother, who is deaf, a fact that is slowly and deftly revealed in his poems. When the Christmas-present kitten he has learned to love disappears, Jack grieves anew, until the despised black cat saves the day. Once again, all of the poems are addressed to Miss Stretchberry, and Jack's growing excitement as he discovers the delights of sound ("Tintinnabulation!") and expression is palpable. He also learns the poetry of silence as he and his mother communicate through sign language and tender gestures. The relevant poems are included at the end of the book, along with a hefty bibliography of "Books on the Class Poetry Shelf." Readers will be touched and inspired once more.  •Marie Orlando, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In a worthy companion piece to *Love That Dog* (2001), Creech employs observant sensitivity and spare verse to carve an indelible portrait of a boy who discovers the power of self-expression. Once again, Jack works on a poetry journal for Miss Stretchberry, now his fifth-grade teacher. He responds to her instruction with skepticism, all the while absorbing the depth of feeling in the poems she shares, sometimes in spite of himself. Creech is a master of negative space; though we see only Jack's side of their dialogue, we learn a great deal about the other figures in Jack's life. In *Love That Dog*, Jack's reluctant relationship with poetry mirrored his struggle to let go of a good friend. In this title, we see Jack's reluctance waning, and with it, the resolute protection of his feelings. Try as he might to hold them off, the lines of Miss Stretchberry's poems open a space in his heart just big enough to allow affection for a small black kitten, dotted with white, to find its way in. Grades 3-6. --Thom Barthelmess --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

So much depends upon introducing poetry making my son laugh cuddled on the couch Sharon Creech's sequel may just improve on the original (*Hate that Dog*) for two reasons: 1) the brilliant use of humor and 2) the reuse of some of the poems, rather than breeding contempt, the familiarity is comfortable. In this book, like in *Hate that Dog*, a boy (Jack) is writing poems to his teacher (Mrs. Stretchberry). Along the way, she introduces him to famous poems, which he bases some of his poems on. He also learns about poetic devices, like alliteration ("creepy cat" and "delightful dog")

and onomatopoeia ("pop, pop, popping" in his brain). I homeschool and use this to introduce my son to poetry in an enjoyable way. While he isn't yet inspired to write poems of his own, he loved hearing these books, listening for the sounds of the words, appreciating the words and the meanings behind them. That, for me, was enough to highly recommend this book.

Hate That Cat was an amazing sequel to an amazing book. All ages can enjoy this well written and dynamic short story simply about one kid's adventures in poetry. As Jack explores poems and life more in this sweet sequel, he finds that some things don't need a creative title or incredibly deep meanings to be beautiful and that people may surprise you with incredible changes, even your own self. All in all, Jack's simple-sweet thoughts make this story as magical as the last.

gift no input

Great way to read a book on long car rides! Even my kids loved it!

Great condition! Great book!

class loved it.

This is a great book for students for whom reading does not come easily. A third grade group of children have enjoyed this story. It has introduced them to other poets and authors as well

Wow, This story is amazing  
You don't need to love dogs  
Or hate cats  
You just need to sing a song  
That you're willing to fall in your lap.

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