

P O E T R Y



F O U N D A T I O N

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2009

**Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman Gives Chicago Reading**

*A public poetry reading for Chicago-area children and their parents*

CHICAGO—The Poetry Foundation is pleased to announce that poet Mary Ann Hoberman will give The Chicago Reading on October 7, 2009, at 6:45 p.m. at the University of Chicago's Ida Noyes Hall. The event is free and open to the public, and marks Hoberman's first official reading as Children's Poet Laureate.

In addition to the public reading, Hoberman will spend October 8, 2009, giving readings and discussing children's poetry at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools with students, teachers, and librarians.

Findings from the Poetry Foundation's major research study, *Poetry in America*, demonstrate that a lifelong love for poetry is most likely to result if cultivated early in childhood and reinforced thereafter. Hoberman's popularity reflects a growing awareness that children have a natural receptivity to poetry and are an appreciative audience, especially when poems are written specifically for them.

**What:** The Chicago Reading, Mary Ann Hoberman's first official reading as Children's Poet Laureate

**Where:** Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago, 1212 East 59th Street

**When:** Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 6:45 p.m.

**Admission to The Chicago Reading is free and open to all ages. A reception and book signing with Hoberman will follow the reading. Children in attendance will receive a free poetry book bag and cap.**

Mary Ann Hoberman was appointed by the Poetry Foundation to a two-year term as Children's Poet Laureate: Consultant in Children's Poetry to the Poetry Foundation in 2008. She is the author of over 40 children's books and has won the National Book Award, the National Council of Teachers of English Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, a Society of School Librarians International Best Book award, and a National Parenting Publications Awards gold medal, among other accolades. She has also been recognized by magazines such as *Child* and *Parenting*. Hoberman's most recent publication is a moving anthology of more than one hundred poems, *The Tree That Time*

*Built*. One hundred of her favorite poems are collected in *The Llama Who Had No Pajama*. Other popular titles include *Strawberry Hill*, Hoberman's first novel; *The Seven Silly Eaters*; and the *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* series.

### **About the Poetry Foundation**

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine and one of the largest literary organizations in the world, exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs. For more information, visit [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org).

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