

Literacy

Poetry



The Beak of the Pelican

by J. Patrick Lewis

She looks for wiggly fishes,
At least so it appears,
To stuff inside the suitcase
That's swinging from her ears.

And though she's very graceful
When flying round and round,
How does she get that faceful
Of luggage off the ground?

J. Patrick Lewis, "The Beak of the Pelican" from *A Hippopotamusn't*, published by The Dial Press. Copyright © 1990 by J. Patrick Lewis. Reprinted by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd.

Source: *A Hippopotamusn't* (The Dial Press, 1990)

A Strange Place to Call Home

(by Marilyn Singer) uses poetry to explore animals' adaptations to their habitats, eg:

Top of the World

Mountain goats

Atop a rocky peak, the air is pure,
but the wind blows fierce and the climb is steep.
Each step must be confident and so sure,
there's little need to look before you leap.
The ice, the snow, the winter's biting cold
require a cozy, insulated coat.
What animal lives here, hardy and bold?
Behold this king of cliffs, the mountain goat!
Feasting in springtime on grass that is lush,
avoiding in summer the sun's blazing rays.
Browsing in autumn on stubborn dry brush,
learning to deal with the year's hardest days.
Living where enemies cannot intrude,
it succeeds indeed at this altitude.

Animals make excellent subjects for poems. Think of your favourite animal. Can you make a poem about it?

