

**Minnesota Storytime  
Reading Guide**

**Title:** *Earthshake: Poems from the Ground Up*

**Author:** Lisa Westberg Peters

**Illustrator:** Cathie Felstead

**Publisher and  
Copyright Date:** Greenwillow Books, 2003

**Connection to  
Minnesota:** Minnesota author

**Summary:** This is a collection of poems about the natural wonders and formations that make the landscape of earth.

**Suggested ages:** 4-6, 7-10, all ages

**Tips for Reading:**

- Read as many, or as few, of the poems as time or attention span allows.
- Select poems to read that are about geological or earth formations that may be found locally so that they may be familiar to the children in your group.
- Have rocks or other objects related to the poems you are reading available for children to touch and feel.
- Re-read the poems to help children understand more about what is happening in the poem and how the author is describing it. Also, give children in your group a moment of silence to think about a poem after it has been read.
- Read the endnotes beginning on page 30 to provide additional information, and consider reading the endnotes aloud to the children.

**Questions  
before reading:**

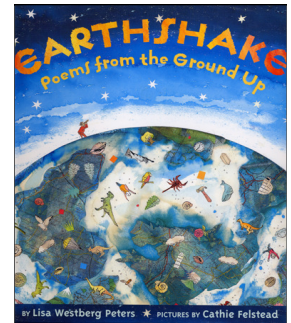
- Think of a rock that you might have seen or picked up recently. What was the shape of the rock? Color? How did it feel?
- What are some different types of rocks that you know? Favorite rocks?
- What is geology? A geologist? What types of things around you would a geologist study?

**To Introduce  
this story say:**

We're going to look at a book of poems (a poem / a few poems) about things that help make the earth and land that we live on. As you listen, think about the different rocks, rock formations, and ways that the earth moves and changes.

**Questions  
After Reading:**

- Which poem did you like the best? Why?
- Did these poems describe the objects, landforms, or events in any new ways?
- Has anyone ever experienced an earthquake or seen a volcano? Talk about it.



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- Provide a collection of rocks for children and have them paint pictures on their own rock.
  - (For older children) Make a drawing of the earth and the geologic features that can be found on it.
- Writing:**
- (For younger children) Have a collection of different types of rocks for children. Give each their own rock and have them write a poem or a story about where they think their rock came from, or different things that the rock has seen.
  - (For older children) Point out the author's use of simile and metaphor. Have the children write their own poems about things they find in nature using clear descriptions that appeal to all the senses.
- Other:**
- (For younger children) Take a walk and pick up interesting rocks along the way and talk about them.
  - (For older children) Look at a map of the world, country, or state and locate some of the things in these poems that might be found or happening.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Talk about different types of geological formations in Minnesota or in the children's home countries, making connections with things already familiar.
  - Have pictures available of the things in the books whenever possible and show the pictures related to the poem before reading it.
- Related Books:**
- ***Earthdance*** by Joanne Ryder, illustrated by Norman Gorbaty (Henry Holt and Company, 1996)
  - ***Our Big Home: An Earth Poem*** by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Elisa Kleven. (Millbrook Press, 2002)
  - ***A World of Wonders: Geographic Travels in Verse and Rhyme*** by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Alison Jay (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2002)
  - ***Rocks in His Head*** by Carol Otis Hurst, illustrated by James Stevenson (Harper Collins, 2001)
  - ***How the Earth Works: 60 Fun Activities for Exploring Volcanoes, Fossils, Earthquakes, and Mores*** by Michelle O'Brien Palmer (Chicago Review Press, 2002)
  - ***The Jupiter Stone*** by Paul Owen Lewis (Tricycle, 2003)
  - ***Everybody Needs a Rock*** by Byrd Baylor, illustrated by Peter Parnall (Scribner's, 1974)
  - ***Fossils Tell of Long Ago*** by Alike (HarperCollins, 1990)
  - ***The Sun, the Wind and the Rain*** by Lisa Westberg Peters, illustrated by Ted Rand (Henry Holt, 1990)

