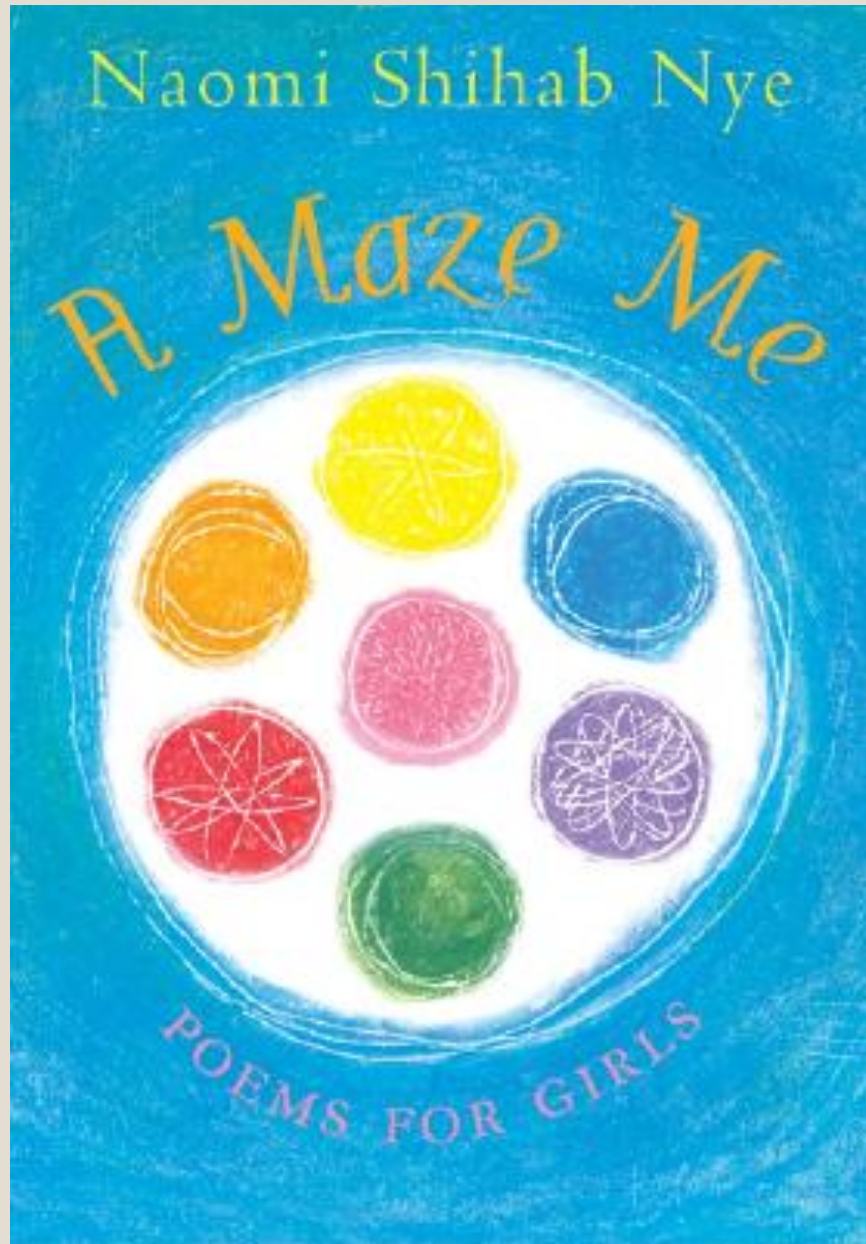




# *A Maze Me: Poems For Girls*

By: Naomi Shihab Nye

Presentation by Randi-Marie Gonsalves



# A Maze Me: Poems for Girls

- ❖ This is a collection of seventy- two poems
- ❖ Written especially for girls aged twelve and up
- ❖ Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Honor Book in 2006
- ❖ The focus of this collection is the poet's reflections of herself as a young girl facing the concept of adolescence
- ❖ Poems describe Nye's world of school, babysitting, crushes, and dreams, through her perspective
- ❖ In the introduction, the author confessed her reluctance to leave her childhood behind because the world of adults seemed just too grim. She wanted to be "amazed forever" at all the little wonders of the world
- ❖ Most of the poems are short, and easy to read. It's very emotional, and full of pretty drawings that match each poem

# Naomi Shihab Nye



- ❖ Born on March 12, 1952, in St. Louis, Missouri
- ❖ Nye is an Arab-American being born of a Palestinian father and an American mother
- ❖ BA in English and world religions from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas
- ❖ Nye writes of her experience as an Arab-American through poems about heritage and peace
- ❖ She is the author of numerous books and poems, of which she has won many awards for
- ❖ Poet William Stafford has said, "Her poems combine transcendent liveliness and sparkle along with warmth and human insight. She is a champion of the literature of encouragement and heart. Reading her work enhances life."
- ❖ She has traveled to the Middle East and Asia for the United States Information Agency three times, promoting international goodwill through the arts
- ❖ She was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2009

# Favorite Poem:

- Every Day (pg. 25)

My hundred year old next door neighbor told me:  
every day is a good day if you have it.  
I had to think about that a minute.  
She said, Every day is a present  
someone left at your birthday place at the table.  
Trust me! It may not feel like that  
but it's true. When you're my age  
you'll know. Twelve is a treasure.  
And it's up to you  
to unwrap the package gently,  
lift out the gleaming hours  
wrapped in tissue,  
don't miss the bottom of the box.

# Why This Book Would Appeal to Young Adults, Especially Girls

- ❖ Deals with everyday happenings; Nye's poems are about family, friends, places, animals, boys, and pretty much life.
- ❖ Pre-teens and teens will find these poems easy to read and easily relatable
- ❖ Funny and endearing; easy to read
- ❖ This is a collection of poems by Nye facing the concept of adolescence
- ❖ Many of the poems are paired with beautiful artwork which makes it even more appealing
- ❖ Puts a new light or way of looking at "problems" in the mind of pre-teens/ teens
- ❖ Can act as a way of reflection for older teens
- ❖ The poetry covers a large variety of content, ranging from simple observations, to her opinions on topics such as peace
- ❖ A great number of the poems reflect on issues that children and teens would be able to relate to, such as having a crush, spending time in school, and babysitting

# Sources

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- Hegner, Cheryl (photo of Nye credit): [dailytexanonline.com](http://dailytexanonline.com)
- Poetry Foundation: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/naomi-shihab-nye>
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