

Chapter 1 : Florian, Douglas | [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*Artist and poet Douglas Florian was born and raised in New York City, and educated at Queens College and the School of Visual Art. Florian was a cartoonist for the New Yorker before a chance encounter with William Cole's anthology of children's verse, Oh, That's Ridiculous (), inspired him to try his hand at the art.*

Lecturer at elementary schools. Work exhibited at Society of Illustrators show, Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs: Bow Wow Meow Meow: Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Cook and Robert A. Bill Adler, What Is a Cat?: Owen Katonah, NY , The silly poems and imaginative artwork in books such as Beast Feast, Mammalabilia: Poems and Paintings, Insectlopedia: Poems and Paintings, and the seasonal self-illustrated Autumnblings and Summersaults, have prompted some reviewers to compare Florian to Ogden Nash , a famous writer of free verse. As Florian later recalled on Embracing the Child online, "I studied drawing with many teachers, but my first was my father. He taught me to love nature in all of its forms. Florian soon discovered that desire alone was not enough to make it as an artist. The hard work of honing his skills did not pay off until he was twenty-one years old and saw his first drawings published in the New York Times. He continued to produce work for a variety of magazines, but eventually grew tired of working to meet deadlines. He began working on a series of nonfiction titles, teaching children about nature in one volume of his "Discovering" series and introducing them to adult occupations such chef and auto mechanic in another. When asked how he made the transition to verse, he explained on Embracing the Child: The poems in that book were so funny that I was inspired to write some of my own. A few early poems wound up in my book Monster Motel: Poems and Paintings, and others in Bing Bang Boing: With Monster Motel the author created fourteen poems about remarkable creatures, including the "Gazzygoo" and the "Fabled Feerz," accompanying each with pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations. Discussing his initial attraction to verse forms with Booklist interviewer Gillian Engberg, Florian noted: The only rule in poetry is that it has to work. We wanted Beast Feast to be absolutely first-rate. A Kirkus Reviews contributor described the work as "subtle, sophisticated, and quite charming. Bird Poems and Paintings offers readers twenty-one poems that focus on a variety of birds, while In the Swim presents the same number of poems about water-loving creatures. Writing in Booklist, Carolyn Phelan claimed that the appeal of On the Wing "lies in its fluent wordplay and generous use of humor in both the poetry and the paintings. Similar high marks were awarded to both Mammalabilia and Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs. Through the twenty-one poems in Mammalabilia, Florian covers a wide-range of animals, both familiar and exotic, among them an aardvark, a fox, and a tapir. In Winter Eyes he treats readers to forty-eight short poems that explore the bright and dark sides of the last season of the year. Some verses focus on the joys of cold-weather activities such as sledding, skating, and ice fishing, the poet nonetheless echoing the complaints of some that winter is just too cold and lasts too long. In twenty-eight poems that a Publishers Weekly contributor described as "overflow- ing] â€¦ with inventive verses celebrating the delights and discontents of summer," Summersaults brims with images of those lazy, crazy days: In School Library Journal Susan Scheps noted the "childlike style of the various-sized watercolor and colored-pencil paintings" Florian pairs with his playful verse, while GraceAnne A. Children attracted to the rhymes of " Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky and other purveyors of nonsense" are bound to enjoy Laugh-eteria, according to School Library Reviewer Barbara Chatton. In this collection of short verse, Florian takes on topics familiar to children, including school, dinosaurs, and eating strange foods. On each page, a pig shows his relative size next to other things, beginning with a hat before moving on to other animals and concluding with the entire universe. Appreciated for his illustrations as well as his verse, he persists, according to critics, in taking both his art work and poetry to new levels. Poems and Paintings, p. Bird Poems and Paintings, p. DeCandido, review of Autumnblings: Animal Poems and Paintings, p. Horn Book, December, , p. Parravano, review of Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs, p. Publishers Weekly, April 1, , review of People Working, p. Nickerson, review of The City , p. Hurlburt, review of A Fisher, p. Warwick, review of In the Swim, p. Douglas Florian Home Page, [http: Embracing the Child](http://Embracing the Child), [http: Cite this article](http://Cite this article) Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

**Chapter 2 : CPR - The Poet of Play: X. J. Kennedy and KidLit By Sonny Williams**

*DISCOVERING SEASHELLS (Discovering Series) [Douglas Florian] on www.nxgvision.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Utilizes full-color artwork to explore the characteristics of marine mollusks, their habitats, their richly varied shells.*

Kennedy read in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Most poetry readings are in effect a kind of Chinese water torture, and I would recommend to the U. However, perhaps as a masochistic test of my own endurance, I decided to stick it out. Even as children attempt to understand their world, learning from parents, school teachers and other adult authority, they revel in the breaking of rules, the laws of nature and logic. Rhyme is also essential to create the humorous snap of the lines, the epigrammatical crack of the whip, of which children are quite fond. Even as he throws common situations into chaos, with exaggerated language, inverted logic and kooky characters, the bouncy rhythms and silly rhymes provide an order to the disorder, which indicates to the child that he is in a world of play. Rhyme and meter, which I loved, had gone out of style, and the loud howls of the Beat Generation now echoed through the land. As Bernard Morris notes in his book *Taking Measure: The Poetry and Prose of X. J. Kennedy*. With walloping tails, the whales off Wales Whack waves to wicked whitecaps. And while they snore on their watery floor, They wear wet woolen nightcaps. Not all reviews were positive, however. Moreover, many of the verses are morbid and unpleasant. While Kennedy is obviously attempting a play on perspective, this type of poem does not achieve its desired effect. Such a view, as even infants know, is pure malarkey. The face of the world, however imaginary, has to have a few warts, if a child is going to believe in it, and it must wear an occasional look of foolishness or consternation. It also needs, I suspect, a bit of poetry, and a dash of incredible beauty and enchantment, if possible. Invitations to read at elementary schools followed the publication of *One Winter Night in August*, and Kennedy received encouragement by meeting the children who enjoyed his poetry, who relished his traditional forms and quirky rhymes: They and I seemed to share a fondness for the chime of rhyme and the bounce of a regular rhythm. Those are among the most spellbinding possible elements of poetry, I believe, and although many serious poets of the day have dismissed such formal constraints as old hat, I felt renewed in my faith that they work upon a reader or listener unconsciously. *One Winter Night in August* was followed by more nonsense verse. *The Phantom Ice Cream Man: More Nonsense Verse*, illustrated by David McPhail, consists of more than fifty nonsense jingles. Was that somebody scary Peering over the prairie And not just an old feather duster. The humorous form of the limerick creates laughter at the observation, but it also belies the slaughter that is soon to transpire. One day while spooning hot rock soup From a volcano crater, Who of us two is greater? With Did Adam Name the Vinegaroon? The rest are actual. The Vinegaroon, a scorpion With jaws like little sickles, When filled with feelings of alarm Emits the smell of pickles. Just tiptoe softly by it Unless you crave a sour dill And you are on a diet. The jaws like sickles is a dark metaphor of death, but this is factual information, for the vinegaroon is believed to be venomous, and the arachnid indeed emits a vinegary odor when disturbed. In *The Forgetful Wishing Well: Poems for Young People*, seventy poems for older children present the challenges of growing up, city life, as well as poems on creatures, seasons and wonders. A blend of fantasy and reality, fathers with prickly chins give kisses and car crashes lead to fist fights. My woolly bear is packed awayâ€” Why do the nights feel colder? The diet of the owl is not For delicate digestions. He goes out on a limb to hoot Unanswerable questions. An ant works hard.

## Chapter 3 : Bing Bang Boing \* Written by Douglas Florian

*Read three to four poems from Douglas Florian's books insectlopedia and on the wing, which have excellent examples of using both alliteration and onomatopoeia inside a poem. His books are also.*

There I met a young girl, perhaps twelve years old, who sells seashells down by the seashore, just like in the tongue twister. I was enchanted by her and by her shells, and I bought one to hang on our Christmas tree this year. As soon as I find this shell, I will share a photo of it with you. Later, I saw some other customers talking with her about her work. And when a moment of life crosses a song or poem or book or tongue twister that I already have in my heart - well, wow! That is like a small spark glowing. I was excited all week to come back to this old wooden desk, to write about this creative child and her salty, painty shells. There is even a type of poem called a cento, wherein a poem is completely made up of lines from other poems. You might want to try some borrowing in your own writing. Simply open a poetry book, read some poems, choose a line you love, and let it inspire a poem of your own. You might begin your poem with the line you love, or you might tuck it into the middle of your poem. You might choose a line from a poem or song that you already have inside of you, as I did today. If you borrow a line from a famous poem or song, your readers will have fun discovering it and remembering that other song or poem too. Your piece and the other piece will echo back and forth to each other. It is wondrous to have a collection of poems that match your soul completely. She sells sea-shells on the sea-shore. Did you know that this seashell tongue twister was originally part of a song written by Terry Sullivan in ? It is based on a real woman named Mary Anning. I have been away for much of the summer: But now fall calls, and so I am back, here at the old desk, so happy to see you again. Hop on over there to meet some new poetry friends, visit with some old ones, and simply enjoy the offerings. Please share a comment below if you wish.

## Chapter 4 : Douglas Florian

*A BEACH DAY is just that. It is a perfectly simple depiction of a beach day. Douglas Florian, author of many delightful nature related books, wrote this many years ago but it holds a timeless quality that is still relate-able a decade later.*

## Chapter 5 : Poem Depot by Douglas Florian | [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*ThriftBooks sells millions of used books at the lowest everyday prices. We personally assess every book's quality and offer rare, out-of-print treasures. We deliver the joy of reading in % recycled packaging with free standard shipping on U.S. orders over \$*

## Chapter 6 : Poetrees by Douglas Florian

*Poetrees is an anthology of poetry by Douglas Florian. It contains nineteen poems about the parts of a tree and different kinds of trees. The book format is different than a normal picture book.*

## Chapter 7 : Summary/Reviews: Knock at a star :

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## Chapter 8 : The Poem Farm: She Sells Seashells - Borrowing Lines

*Douglas Florian is the creator of many acclaimed picture books including Dinothesaurus, which received starred reviews in four major publications, Comet, Stars, The Moon and Mars, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year and Horn Book Fanfare List selection; Bow Wow Meow Meow, winner of the Gryphon Award and a Parents Magazine Best Book of the*

*Year; and Lizards, Frogs and Polliwogs, a Bulletin.*

**Chapter 9 : Poetrees | Book by Douglas Florian | Official Publisher Page | Simon & Schuster**

*Simply open a poetry book, read some poems, choose a line you love, and let it inspire a poem of your own. You might begin your poem with the line you love, or you might tuck it into the middle of your poem.*