



To the Thawing Wind

—Robert Frost

Come with rain, O loud Southwester!
Bring the singer, bring the nester;
Give the buried flower a dream;
Make the settled snow-bank steam;
Find the brown beneath the white;
But whate'er you do to-night,
Bathe my window, make it flow,
Melt it as the ices go;
Melt the glass and leave the sticks
Like a hermit's crucifix;
Burst into my narrow stall;
Swing the picture on the wall;
Run the rattling pages o'er;
Scatter poems on the floor;
Turn the poet out of door.

A gentle rain can shower, sprinkle, drizzle, or mist. Powerful rains beat down in storms and downpours, fall in streams and sheets, or race, rush, and gush in torrents. Rain can play a pinging beat as it falls willy-nilly from the sky: pitter-patter, plip-plop, drip-drop, plink-plink. And puddles are perfect to splish-splash. Poets have captured the language and rhythm of the rain, creating images that stay with us throughout the year.

As you read about rain, in various poetic forms,
Ripple in it, float in it, boat in it.
Go on, get wet.

—Rita Gray

From the introduction of *One Big Rain*.
Divided by the seasons of the year, this
collection of poetry includes works by
poets such as Robert Frost, Carl
Sandburg, Lilian Moore, and more.



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About the Author Rita Gray



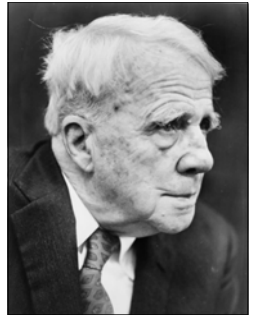
Over the years, Rita Gray's background in psychology and social work has given her the opportunity to work with children and their families, and this has allowed her to see the positive experience books present for kids. Rita spends her free time reading and writing poetry. She's the author of several children's books, including *Mama Mine, Mama Mine*; *Easy Street*; and *The Wild Little Horse*. She and her family live in New York City.

Visit Rita at www.ritagrayoutoday.com.

About the Poet Robert Frost

"He has bequeathed his nation a body of imperishable verse from which Americans will forever gain joy and understanding."

— President John F. Kennedy



(New York World-Telegram & Sun)

Robert Frost wrote hundreds of poems over his lifetime.

His first published poem was called "My Butterfly," which appeared in the New York newspaper *The Independent* on November 8, 1894, when he was twenty years old. By the 1920s Robert Frost was one of the most celebrated poets in America. He would eventually receive four Pulitzer Prizes for his writing.

Robert Frost's work is associated mainly with New England life and reflections on nature. However, his poetry is psychologically complex and textured with dark meditations on universal themes. The language that he used in his poetry departed from the popular norms and Frost is considered a wholly modern poet, preferring to write the way people speak.

Poet Daniel Hoffman described Frost's work as "the Puritan ethic turned astonishingly lyrical and enabled to say out loud the sources of its own delight in the world."

Biographical information derived from Poets.org.

About the Illustrator Ryan O'Rourke

For many years, Ryan O'Rourke's illustrations have appeared in galleries, newspapers, and magazines, including a weekly illustration for the *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*.

One Big Rain marks Ryan's foray into children's picture books. He makes his home in Connecticut, but you can see more of his artwork at www.ryanorourke.com.

