

# Incredible Inventions

Poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins

Illustrations by Julia Sarcone-Roach

## About the Book

Take a wild ride through centuries of inventions with *Incredible Inventions*, a compilation of poetry, art, and history from Lee Bennett Hopkins and Julia Sarcone-Roach. From Ferris wheels to Popsicles, from Band-Aids to drinking straws, this poetry collection will have your students thinking about everyday objects in a whole new light—as fantastic inventions!

## Classroom Activities

### Going Further Behind the Scenes

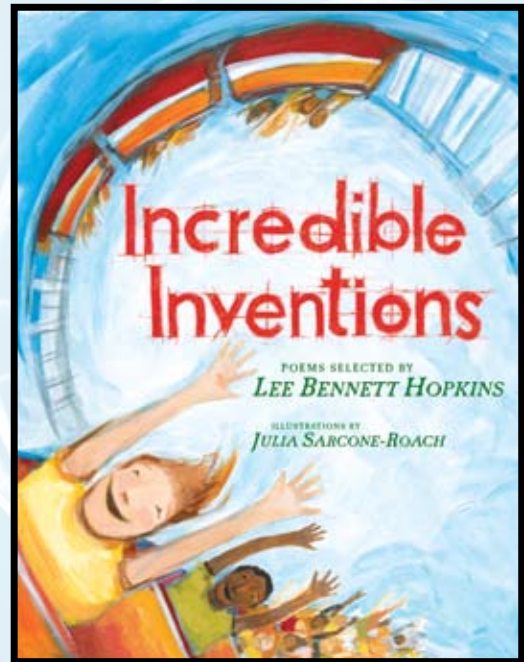
Have each student research an invention from *Incredible Inventions* and create an informational poster about his or her findings. Students can begin their research with the “Behind the Inventions” section in the book, and then expand their knowledge by using at least two other informational sources. As part of the poster, each student should write and illustrate an original poem about his or her invention.

### Incredible Inventions: The Sequel

After reading *Incredible Inventions* with your class, challenge students to find poems about inventions not included in the book by browsing through poetry anthologies or searching online. Have each student type up his or her poem and illustrate it on the same sheet of paper, taking inspiration from Julia Sarcone-Roach’s art. Then ask students to research the inventions featured in their poems and to write a few paragraphs about their history. Compile the paragraphs and bind them together with all your students’ illustrated poems, creating a class sequel to Lee Bennett Hopkins’s book.

### Silly Storytelling

Tie together all the objects in *Incredible Inventions* with this creative writing project. Have students write original short stories that incorporate all sixteen inventions from the book: jigsaw puzzles, blue jeans, roller coasters, drinking straws, basketball, Fig Newtons, Ferris wheels, escalators, hairbrushes, Crayola crayons, Popsicles, Band-Aids, traffic signals, kitty litter, Velcro, and athletic shoes. Ask for volunteers to share their silly stories with the class as a celebration of their creativity.



Tr 978-0-06-087245-8 • \$17.99 (\$19.50)

Lb 978-0-06-087246-5 • \$18.89 (\$20.89)

### Poetic Form Spotlight

Introduce your students to various forms of poetry with *Incredible Inventions*. Learn about the ode with Rebecca Kai Dotlich’s “Ode to Blue Jeans,” the concrete poem with Joan Bransfield Graham’s “Roller Coaster” and Drew Lamm’s “The Straw—1888,” and rhyming couplets with Constance Andrea Keremes’s “Brushes Rule.” Encourage students to try writing their own odes, concrete poems, and rhyming couplets. Then have each student write out and illustrate a poem that he or she is especially proud of, to display in the classroom.

### Modern Necessities

The most recent invention featured in *Incredible Inventions* is the athletic shoe, from 1964. What things do your students regularly use that were invented after 1964? Have students work in small groups to research recent inventions, and then create illustrated invention timelines like the one featured at the end of *Incredible Inventions*.

For exclusive information on your favorite authors and artists, visit [www.authortracker.com](http://www.authortracker.com).

To order, please contact your HarperCollins sales representative, call 1-800-C-HARPER, or fax your order to 1-800-822-4090.

Prices and availability subject to change without notice.



**Greenwillow Books**

An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

[www.harpercollinschildrens.com](http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com)