

J. Patrick Lewis

Keep a Pocket in Your Poem*

"Keep a poem in your pocket."

—Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

Keep a pocket in your poem
Filled with any wondrous thing
You can think of—red hawk feather,
Silver penny, pinkie ring,

Yo-yo, M&M's, a ticket
To a rollercoaster ride,
Pictures of your pug. A poem
Needs a pocket on the side.

So—
Keep a pocket in your poem
For imagination grows
From the deepest secret pockets
Every pocket poet knows.

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J. Patrick Lewis is a poet who writes for children. His other 2009 books include: *The Underwear Salesman: And Other Jobs for Better or Verse* (Simon & Schuster/Atheneum), *Skywriting: Poems in Flight* (Creative Editions), *Spot the Plot! A Riddle Book of Book Riddles* (Chronicle Books), and *The House* (Creative Editions).