Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems
And Paintings
Synopsis
This book is full of dinosaurs, both carnivores and herbivores. You’ll find a big Iguanodon, as well as clever Tro-o-don. There’s Spinosaurus and T. rex, plus plesiosaurs with GIANT necks. Step back in time in this fossil-filled collection that explores the prehistoric era with Douglas Florian’s singular wit and style. In twenty funny and factual poems, he brings dinosaurs to life “illuminating the natural history of these amazing creatures as well as their unique and quirky characteristics.

Book Information
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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (8 customer reviews)
Age Range: 6 - 10 years
Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews
Which geologic period came first: the Jurassic, the Cretaceous, or the Triassic? I could not have told you last week, but thanks to reading Douglas Florian’s DINOTHERSAURUS I have discovered a fun way to remember: “The dinosaurs First lived outdoors During the time Triassic. While most died out, Some came about Later in the Jurassic. Then they evolved As Earth revolved, In times known as Cretaceous. But now indoors Great dinosaurs Fill museum halls, spacious.” Accompanying this dino-poem on a two-page spread (the first of twenty) is a hysterically funny illustration of a window-filled museum with dinosaurs craning their heads out in places and skeletal parts visible in other places. Douglas Florian has created these lots-to-look-at illustrations with "gouache, collage, colored pencils, stencils, dinosaur dust, and rubber stamps on primed brown paper bags." I suspect
that sharing and explaining THAT knowledge about picturebook illustrative technique will inspire some dino-mighty art projects. And while I'm not by any means suggesting that 86-year old Ashley Bryan is a dinosaur, just because I'm dragging his name into this review, but Ashley totally inspired me the other night at this year’s Newbery Caldecott banquet with the rousing call-and-response chants of poems he led during his Laura Ingalls Wilder Award acceptance speech. In similar fashion, one can take any of Douglas Florian’s poems from DINOTHERSAURUS and do similar call-and-response chants with kids. That's my plan for injecting poetry and high-spirited audience participation into a set of booktalks that I have scheduled for later this week.

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