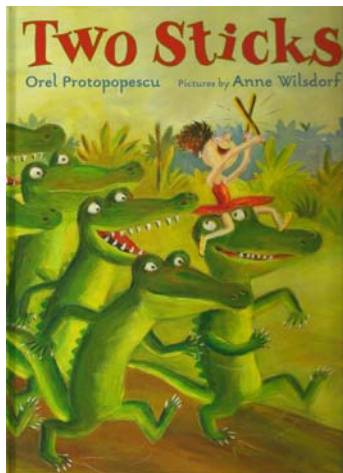




# Orel Protopopescu

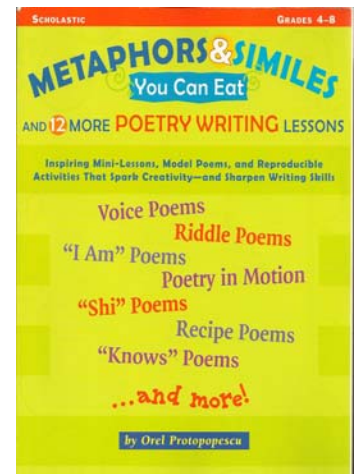
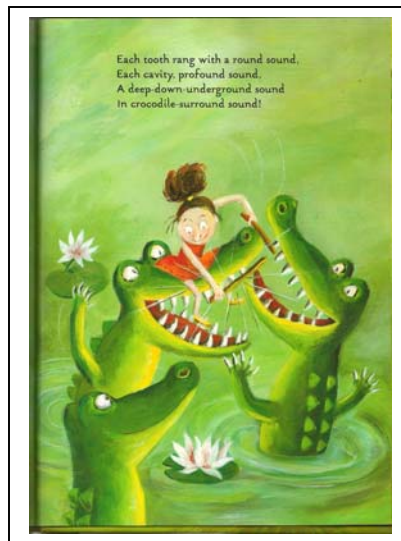
Author... Poet... Teacher... Presenter

Orel Protopopescu, award-winning author and poet, has been published by major houses. *A Thousand Peaks, Poems from China* (with Siyu Liu) was selected for the New York Public Library's *Books for the Teen Age, 2003* list. Her newest book, *Two Sticks*, is on Bank Street College of Education's "Best Children's Books of the Year" 2008 list. *Thelonious Mouse* is forthcoming from FSG. Orel a native speaker of English, is fluent in French. She and her husband, Serban have lived in France for extended periods and will be in Paris from late September, 2008, until the end of May 2009. They have two daughters.

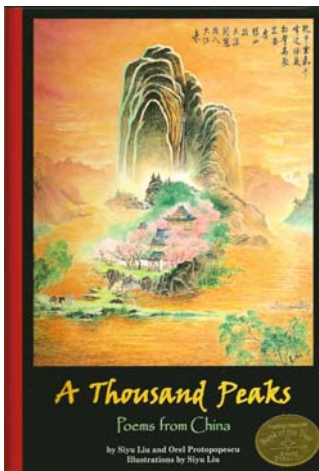


Farrar, Straus  
& Giroux, 2007

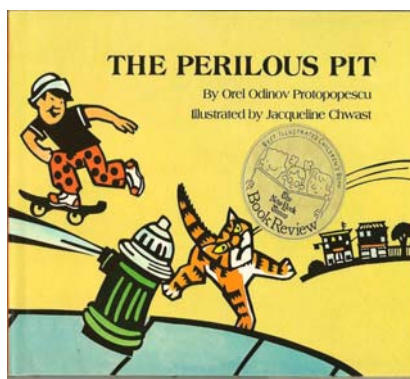
[www.fsgkidsbooks.com](http://www.fsgkidsbooks.com)



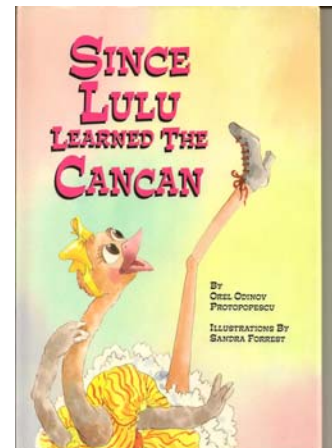
Scholastic, 2003



Pacific View Press, 2002  
[www.pacificviewpress.com](http://www.pacificviewpress.com)



Simon & Schuster, 1993



Simon & Schuster, 1991

# Orel's Sampler of Some of Her Workshops (For Children and/or Adults)

**“Voice” Poems:** In these, a voice is given to anything in the universe that cannot speak for itself, in other words, not a person. It might be abstract: an idea or emotion. Words are written on the board (sensory, etc.) that inspire vivid personification.

**“Voice” Stories:** Monologues in which a non-human character tells about its life. Since this is a story, not a poem, the main character should have a dream, wish, or problem to be resolved by the end of the story. Characters should experience conflict (inner and/or outer) and change over time. Appropriate model stories are shared.

**Monologues on the Odd Profession:** Inspiration comes from Heinrich Boll's “The Laugher,” about a professional laugher, as well as model student stories. Workshop participants make up a character with an odd profession and write a monologue in that voice.

**“I Am” Poems:** These are similar to “voice” poems, but with a more specific structure. Sharing of age appropriate student poems, as in all these lessons. Inspiring words from Orel's “word box” are available to any student who requests them.

**“Knows” Poems:** Inspired by model poems, students try to relate what something non-human knows. Verbs written on the board are the key to this lesson.

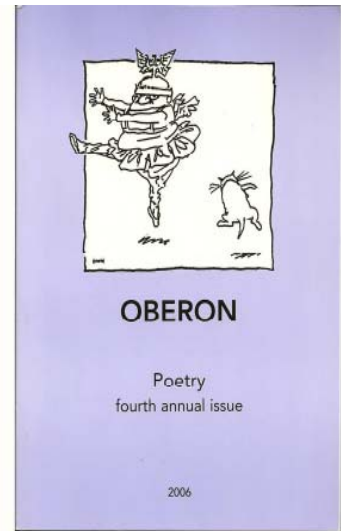
**Portrait Poems:** Students write portraits, in words, of people or animals, known or invented. Photos or paintings may jump-start invention.

**Poetry from Paintings:** Postcards from Orel's collection or, if the school has them, large poster-sized reproductions, inspire these poems, as well as student model poems. Students enjoy seeing their varied poetic responses to one painting.

**Poetry Chinese Style:** One lesson involves writing an original poem in *shi* style (in English or French) and another involves interpreting the words in a found poetry “translation” game. Very sophisticated, but either lesson works with most grades.

**Writing and Revising Short Stories:** Covers the major ingredients needed for effective storytelling, especially the importance of showing and not just telling. Model stories are projected to illustrate talking points.

**Talk for Adults: Writing Poetry For Children and Stories in Verse:** Writing exercises in traditional meters and free verse. Group critiques.



**Oberon**  
(poetry magazine, 2006)

## First Honorable Mention

Orel Protopopescu

Where is the girl who forgot to eat,  
who thought nothing of riding a bike  
thirty miles to Manhattan after school,  
who recited poems in the grass by candlelight,  
chanted hymns of praise to trees and stars,  
read books as she wrote them in her sleep,  
who sang as she washed away grief,  
danced floors clean with rags on her feet?

She left me a pile of words to play with,  
unfinished novels, abandoned scripts,  
notes in the margins of dusty books,  
embroidered blouses, mini-skirts,  
old photos lovelier than she knew,  
letters so young they make me weep,  
a family of friends, a house by the sea,  
the only man who still sees her in me.

**Want to learn more about Orel Protopopescu? Go to these links and her website:**

<http://us.macmillan.com/Author/orelprotopopescu>

<http://www.amazon.com/>

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

Orel's e-mail address

[orel@optonline.net](mailto:orel@optonline.net)