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Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to be writing to you today in celebration of the release of my first collection of poems for children! Like my other works, this project has been all about discovery -- I was so inspired by [Greg du Toit's](#) story about how he submerged himself in a Kenyan water hole in order to capture images of the lions drinking, that I dove into *researching* the water hole myself! What did I find there? POETRY!

Spend a day at the water hole on the African grasslands.

*Welcome wildebeest
and beetle,
oxpecker and lion.
This water hole is yours.
It offers you oasis
beside its shrinking shores.*

From dawn to nightfall, animals come and go at the water hole. Giraffes gulp, wildebeest graze, impalas leap, vultures squabble and elephants wallow. With warm, imaginative illustrations by [Anna Wadham](#), lyrical poems are accompanied by facts to introduce readers to the wonders of the water hole.

Order your copy today!

[Millbrook Press](#), [Indiebound.org](#), [Amazon](#), *or wherever fine books are sold!*

*** "Latham's finely crafted verse, at once humorous and serious, dazzlingly opens the imagination to the wilds of the world. Enlightening and engaging, a thrilling panorama of the diversity to be found throughout the animal kingdom." —starred, [Kirkus Reviews](#)**

*** "This will be a much-sought-after book for teaching reading and inquiry skills.... A strong choice." —starred, [School Library Journal](#)**

"In DEAR WANDERING WILDEBEEST Irene Latham asks readers to 'Wander with me, meander with me...'. They will -- and they will return for more -- again and again. In addition to lyrical poems, Latham offers a host of fascinating facts about varied creatures and environs adding depth to the collection. Anna Wadham's beautifully crafted artwork well accompanies the verses. Wander. Meander." - *Lee Bennett Hopkins*, recipient of the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children

Book Launch Party & Poetry Workshop for Kids

Thursday, September 4
Emmet O'Neal Library
50 Oak St.
Mountain Brook, AL

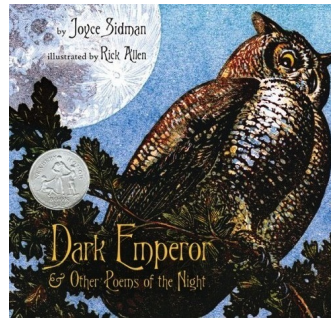
3:30- 4:30 Inside the Water Hole: "mask" poems and safari sketchbooks
4:45- 7:00 Reception featuring safari fun, friends, poetry, books and CAKE! Drop-in at your leisure.
Books provided by [Reed Books](#).

Twitter Safari Fest

All during the month of September, I will be posting poetry and facts from the water hole. I invite you to follow me [@irene_latham](#).

Interview

Eavesdrop on a conversation between the amazing Newbery-Honor winning poet [Joyce Sidman](#) and me at [Poetry for Children](#). Big thanks to the bloggers who will be hosting me in the coming weeks! Find out more at [Live Your Poem](#).



A Gee's Bend Dream Come True

Big thanks to [Alabama Folklife Association](#) for inviting me to speak about LEAVING GEE'S BEND *in* Gee's Bend! Great to see Gee's Bend friends, especially quilter Mary Lee Bendolph (pictured left). [Read more](#).

Wander with me... to Florence, Alabama

Thursday, September 11
Waterloo Elementary
Florence Fine Arts Academy

Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, 6 pm "Teen Poetry Workshop" all attendees receive free copy of [WHAT CAME BEFORE](#).

Meander with me... to Birmingham International Street Fair

Saturday, September 13
Linn Park
[Sojourns: a Fair Trade Store](#) tent

Other Events

[SCBWI](#) Southern Breeze Writing & Illustrating for Kids, Oct. 10-11 (Birmingham, AL)

[NCTE](#) (Washington, DC)

Saturday, November 22, noon: signing books with Laura Purdie Salas, author of [Water Can Be...](#)
November 23, 12 - 1:15 pm: "Poem as Storyteller" session with poet [Amy Ludwig VanDerwater](#), and teachers Katie DiCesare (Dublin, OH) and Ann Marie Corgill, Alabama Teacher of the Year!!

Look for [DON'T FEED THE BOY](#) in Scholastic Book Fairs!

Thank you, as ever, for sharing my joy and adventures... see you at the water hole!

Love,
Irene



www.irenelatham.com

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