

Hey hi ho there.

It's greenseason in the Worselands—time to meet *D-39*!



D is for DOG

... and **39** is for the number of pairs of chromosomes dogs possess. (Humans, you may recall, have 23 pairs of chromosomes). So that's how the Dog Alive™ company named the D-39 model robodog.

D is also for:

Dystopian. This book is set in an imaginary place called the Worselands, in an imagined future, during which things aren't going so great. Real dogs have been outlawed. The country is polarized. Freedoms are being taken away, and violence is sweeping the nation.

Different. When I started this book it was in free verse, with jagged lines. But as I kept tinkering with the story (the same way main character Klynt likes to tinker with the objects in her Museum of Fond Memories, which was named after [this Birmingham icon](#)), I wasn't satisfied. I could hear the story whispering to me to try something different... and when the poems settled themselves into prose poems, I knew it was exactly what the book needed!

Delight. Writing this book was FUN. Poetry is a playground, and this book allowed me to explore. And I got to make up words... A LOT of words! Like greenseason (spring), deathstretch (war), joyslamm (happy), and quirkface (smile). (There's a Glossary at the end of the book, but you probably won't need it, as context reveals their meanings.)

"Any dog lover will appreciate this heartwarming tale of love and perseverance." - [Publisher's Weekly](#)

"Latham uses an invented lexicon of delightfully creative and expressive hybrid words—jinglesnap, boomblasts, itchglitchy—to tell this... girl-meets-dog story of hope, perseverance, and survival." - [Kirkus](#)

Ways to Connect Readers with *D-39*

Watch the [book trailer](#)

Explore the [Discussion Guide](#) that includes activities across the curriculum—and "Poem-Friends" for D-39!

[Invent Your Own Robodog](#) Activity Sheet

[Invent Your Own Words](#) Activity Sheet

Create Your Own [D-39 Junk Journal](#)

Giveaway: Just for Newsletter Subscribers!

To celebrate, I've partnered with the good folks at [Little Professor](#) in Homewood. Along with a hot off the press copy of *D-39: A Robodog's Journey*, they will include in the shipment an **extra-special handmade-by-me D-39 junk journal to the first 39 people to place an order!**

Thank you, Little Professor!

Readers, consider this your (or a special child's) very own place to write a possibly dystopian, different, and/or delightful story. You can even use the space to make up your own words!

Get your copy of D-39 + Junk Journal!

You're Invited! Upcoming IN-PERSON Public Events!

June 13, 2-4 pm [Little Professor Books](#) (Homewood, AL)—I'll be presenting about *D-39: A Robodog's Journey*...and there will be a robodog craft!

June 19, 5 pm [Avondale Park](#) (Birmingham, AL)—Help me and the community celebrate the return of the Miss Fancy statue! It's a great time to get your very own copy of *Meet Miss Fancy*.

June 23, 10 am [Oneonta Public Library](#) (Oneonta, AL)—I'll be (outdoors) book talking both *The Cat Man of Aleppo* and *D-39*. Book sales proceeds benefit the [Blount County Animal Adoption Center](#)!

Because Octopuses are Awesome

Have you seen the gorgeous Oscar-winning documentary film [My Octopus Teacher](#)?

Friends, this is the perfect film to pair with [Love, Agnes: Postcards from an Octopus!](#)

50 Firsts Update

i loved hearing from so many about what my [50 Firsts for my 50th Birthday](#) meant to you! Some have celebrated milestones in similar ways. Others are planning to. This approach to life doesn't have to be limited to a special occasion. We can invite "firsts" into our lives anytime... and we should! That's how we'll keep growing and learning, our whole lives long.

New book-related additions to the list:

First time to do an international school visit (thanks Nat @ [IS Bangkok!](#)).

First time to present a poetry lesson for [Read Aloud Revival](#). *Welcome, nonet-writing homeschool poets and families!*

First time to teach a Poetry Revision webinar in partnership with [The Writer's Loft](#).

New I'm-only-human addition to the list:

I left behind my cell phone at [my new favorite restaurant](#), and lived blissfully without it for about half an hour, before making the mad scramble back to pick it up. :)

Finally: "Don't you know yet? It is your light that lights the world." - *Rumi*

Thank you for lighting my world!

Love,
irene

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