

Title	<i>Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reverso Poems</i>				
Author (Text & Illustration)	Marilyn Singer & Josée Masse				
Publication Year	2010	Publisher	Dutton Books for Young Readers		
Translated Versions	--				
Words	1104	Pages	32	YLLLevel	N/A
<b>Synopsis</b>					
<p>This is not a single story, but a collection of works based on fairy tales. The titles of the poems (14 stories in total) are as follows. The titles in parentheses refer to those of the original fairy tales the respective verses were based on. The first and last poems are the Foreword and the Afterword.</p> <p>In Reverse (Preface)</p> <p>Cinderella's Double Life (Cinderella)</p> <p>The Sleeping Beauty and the Wide-Awake Prince (The Sleeping Beauty)</p> <p>Rapunzel's Locks (Rapunzel)</p> <p>In the Hood (Little Red Riding Hood)</p> <p>The Doubtful Duckling (Ugly Duckling)</p> <p>Mirror Mirror (Snow White)</p> <p>Full of Beans (Jack and the Beanstalk)</p> <p>Bears in the News (Goldilocks and the Three Bears)</p> <p>Have Another Chocolate (Hansel and Gretel)</p> <p>Do You Know My Name? (Rumpelstiltskin)</p> <p>Disappointment (The Frog King)</p> <p>Longing for Beauty (Beauty and the Beast)</p> <p>The Road (Afterword)</p>					
<b>Introduction</b>					
<p>This picture book is a collection of poems based on well-known fairy tales. Each two-page spread consists of one with a verse on the left and on the right. The verses on the right are the same as those on the left, only with the lines reversed. Therefore, reading the poems from the bottom to the top would yield a different meaning from reading them</p>					

conventionally (i.e., from top to bottom) (see the example). The author calls this a reverse poem and provides an explanation at the end of the book.

Example:

<u>Left</u>	<u>Right</u>
A cat without a chair: Incomplete.	Incomplete: A chair without a cat

Somewhat similar to a Japanese palindrome like "Takeyabuyaketa," this style was created by the author out of her desire to present two different points of view.

For example, the title of the picture book, *Mirror Mirror*, is a famous phrase from Snow White. Snow White's poem has one verse from her point of view and the other from her stepmother's. A change in position leads to a change in perspective. When reading fairy tales, one is often confronted with cruelty and deception, but this must also be seen as an opportunity to look into the deeper layers of these stories. Incidentally, a reflection in a mirror is inverted. Illustrations that evoke a combination of light and shadow were also used to represent different perspectives in the left and right sides.

#### Notes

Part of this text is a substantially revised version of the draft frontispiece, "Seeking Inspirational Picture Books" [Ehon o Sagashini] [4] from "English Teachers' Magazine" July 2019 (Vol. 68, No.4), TAISHUKAN Publishing Co., Ltd.

(Text: Megumi Kobayashi)