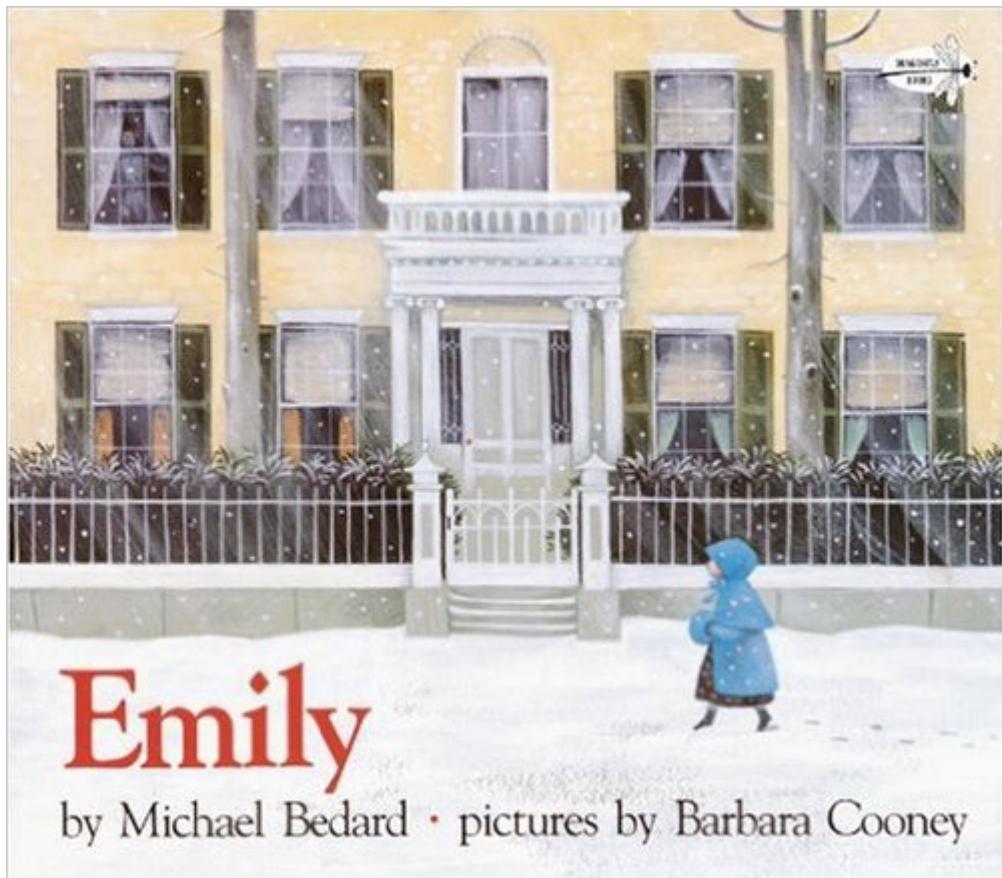


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# Emily



## Synopsis

From Michael Bedard and Caldecott-winning illustrator Barbara Cooney comes a "book to read aloud and share" about American poet Emily Dickinson and the young girl who befriends her (SLJ). A young girl who lives across the street from the reclusive Emily Dickinson gets her chance to meet the poet when her mother is invited to play the piano for Emily. The girl sneaks up to Emily's room and exchanges a small gift for an authentic poem, which is included in the book. "This fictionalized encounter is, like a Dickinson sonnet, a quiet gem: unassuming upon first glance, it is in fact deeply lustrous, with new facets becoming apparent the longer one looks" |Bedard's unnamed narrator speaks with the piercing clarity and insight particular to sensitive children |[Bedard] uses diction and imagery that might have been the poet's own: strong, sure language whose force derives from its very economy; small but potent details from nature and domesticity. Judiciously employing alliteration, rhyme, assonance and echoes--"Like flakes of flowers the words fell to the sheets. I listened to them fall and fell asleep"--his prose moves with the rhythms and lyricism of poetry, yet retains a child's straightforward, unselfconscious voice throughout. Caldecott Medalist Cooney's oils richly capture the story's subtly shifting moods, from the utter stillness of a street bathed in moonlight and swaddled in snow to the vigor of a sun-flooded room full of growing plants. They visually extend the text's Dickinsonian personification of nature ("There was no one there but winter, all in white") and contain skillful echoes of their own: at different points in the story the child and poet are shown sitting alone on the landings of their respective houses, a visual reinforcing of their special kinship. And in their tranquil beauty these paintings testify to the mysteries and wonders of even the everyday. "Publishers Weekly" |In this imaginative and unusual picture book... the language of the text is lyrical |The illustrations convey a sense of place and time long ago, from drawing rooms to clothing. This is a picture book to read aloud and share |[Readers] will find that Bedard's charming story demystifies the person and offers some understanding of her odd behavior. "SLJ" |Two time Caldecott award winning illustrator Barbara Cooney's richly detailed oil paintings enhance the moving story of Dickinson's extraordinary private life. "Children's Literature"

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0450 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reprint edition (October 8, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440417406

ISBN-13: 978-0440417408

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #85,101 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #5631 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

"There is a woman on our street they call the Myth. She lives with her sister in the yellow house across the road. Her room is the one up on the left at the front. If you stand on tiptoe, you can see it peeping over the high hedge as you pass. She hasn't left her house in nearly twenty years. If strangers come to call, she runs and hides herself away. Some people say she's crazy. But to me she's Emily..." When our young narrator's mother is invited to cross the street and play the piano for the elusive Emily, the little girl can't wait to accompany her. Emily is nowhere to be seen, but Mother sits and nervously begins to play. "When Mother stopped she turned to me. A sound of clapping rippled down the stairs, and then a small voice like a little girl's. "Dear friend, you put the robin's song to shame. Play more. Already I can feel the spring." As her mother continues, the little girl creeps up the winding stairs to investigate, and at the bend at the top, finds a small woman dressed in white, sitting and listening to the beautiful music from below. From her pocket, our narrator takes out two lily bulbs. "I brought you some spring...If you plant them they will turn to lilies." Quickly Emily dashed off some words on a scrap of paper and handed it to her guest. "Hide this away, as I will hide your gift to me. Perhaps in time they both will bloom." And so as spring arrived, so did the lilies, and a young girl's special poem from Emily Dickinson..... Michael Bedard has captured the quiet and intriguing reclusive nature of Emily Dickinson in his well researched historical story. "In writing this book, I went to Amherst to visit the house where she lived. I sat in the parlor with the piano, visited the room where she wrote.

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