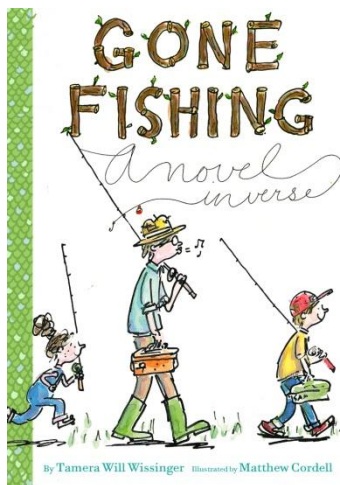


Gone Fishing

by Tamera Will Wissinger, Illustrated by Matthew Cordell

"A playful verse narrative of the joys and perils of a family fishing trip. . . . This tender, well-crafted sibling story should hook many readers."—*Kirkus*

"Just the thing for readers with a burgeoning interest in poetry—or angling."—*Publishers Weekly*



***Gone Fishing* (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children; March 5, 2013)** by Tamera Will Wissinger, illustrated by Matthew Cordell, is a charming middle grade novel in verse about the excitement of a fishing trip and the annoyance of little sisters. Nine-year-old Sam loves fishing with his dad: "For fishing tomorrow / it's just us two. / Not Mom, not Grandpa, / not Lucy. / It'll be like playing catch or / painting the garage. / Just Dad and me. / Fishing." So when his pesky little sister, Lucy, horns in on their fishing trip, Sam is not pleased. Despite the unwanted guest, Catfish Sam captures a day of adventure in his net—and in verse.

When read together, Wissinger's poems build a dawn-to-dusk story of a father-son bond and of sibling harmony lost and found. Young readers will relate to Sam's initial frustration with Lucy, relishing in his fishy curse: "May a seagull dive and swoop / And drop a bombshell in your soup. / May you grow a knee-length beard / So your friends all think you're weird. / If you take my gear / May your bones quake, *SAM IS NEAR*." As the fishing trip unfolds, Lucy proves to be more of an asset than a hassle, and Sam learns to appreciate his little sister. From acrostic to quatrain, each poem is labeled with its proper poetic form. Energetic line drawings animate the poetry with humor and drama, and the extensive Poet's Tackle Box at the end makes this the perfect primer to hook aspiring poets of all ages. An unique combination of poetry and comic illustrations, *Gone Fishing* hits bookshelves just in time for Poetry Month and fishing season.

Tamera Wissinger was inspired to write this novel in verse, her first book, after writing "Night Crawlers," a poem that stemmed from childhood memories of night crawler hunting with her mom and dad before fishing trips. A graduate of Hamline University's MFA Writing for Children program, Tamera has taught poetry workshops to elementary children. For more poetry-writing tips, visit www.tamerawillwissinger.com. Tamera and her husband share their time between Chicago and Florida.

Matthew Cordell knows all about fishing trips from his South Carolina childhood. He is the author-illustrator of *hello! hello!* and illustrator of many books, including *Justin Case* by Rachel Vail and *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* by Julie Sternberg. Visit his website at www.matthewcordell.com. He lives in Illinois with his family.

***Gone Fishing: A novel* by Tamera Will Wissinger, Illustrated by Matthew Cordell**

March 2013; 128 pages; Ages 6 to 9

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