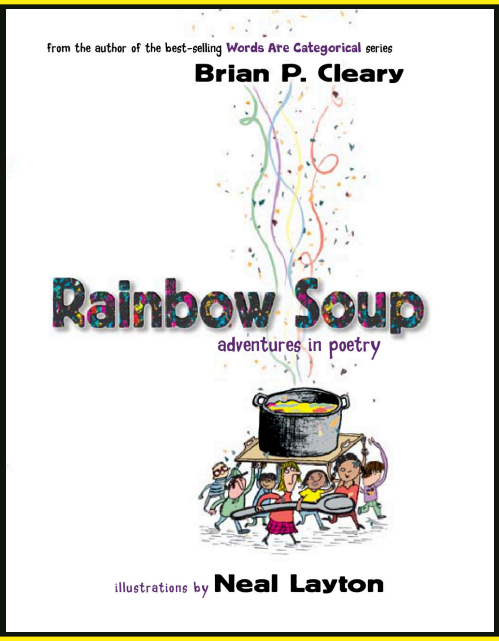
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Brian P. Cleary

Rainbow Soup

adventures in poetry



illustrations by **Neal Layton**



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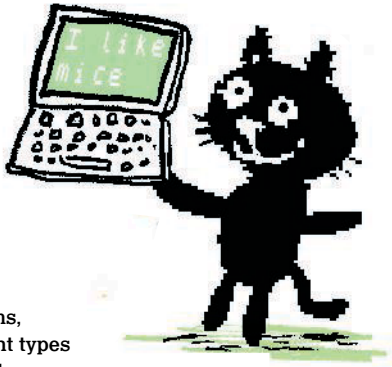


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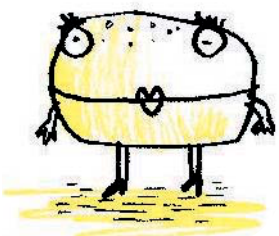
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Welcome

Come romp with me amongst the words.
Come play amongst the phrases.
Swing and climb from pun to rhyme
And hop through versey mazes.
Swim through rivers thick with thought.
Rejoice from head to toe-etry.
Come beat your drums and shake your bums
And dance the dance of poetry.



Making the Best of a Bad Situation

Erik had a pair of heads,
And neither was becoming.
But happily he spent each day
Both whistling and humming.



The **meter,** *or rhythmic beat, of this type of poem is called* **trochaic**. *That's just a fancy word that tells us that the poem begins with the first syllable being "stressed," or emphasized, followed by the next syllable being "unstressed," or softer. See how you say "ER-ik" with more ooomph on the first part than the second? By the way, why can Erik both whistle and hum at the same time? Can you?*



SHHHHHH!

I've said too much already.
You know just what I mean.
If what's-his-name should find out,
There'd be an awful scene.

If he begins to ask around,
You haven't gotta clue.
We never had this talk, you hear,
If you see you-know-who!



Very Scary

Doors that creak while I'm in bed,
The vacant house beside us,
A story of a ghoul or ghost,
Our neighbor's pit bull, Midas,
The big, black crow upon the post
With eyes as dark as toffee—
None is half as frightening
As Mom before her coffee.

Rainbow Soup

Emma found an onion that was
Round and white and green.
Keisha brought the orangest carrot
Anyone had seen.

Luke had picked red peppers
And some juicy red tomatoes.
Lin Wu brought a big black pot
And four blue-skinned potatoes.

Patty poured in pasta
That was blue and gold and red.
Diego had a purple cabbage
(Bigger than his head!).

The yolks of two big eggs would add
Some yellow to the pot.
They diced and stirred and
Simmered it, till it was good and hot.

A little this and that
From every shape and color group—
It takes a bit of everything
To make a rainbow soup.

