Author Study: Marilyn Singer

Marilyn Singer is a beloved and prolific children’s book author, whom has an especially good knack for writing poems and creating poetry collections. Her fairy tale poetry book *Mirror Mirror* and the follow-up book, *Follow Follow*, are written in a creative poetic form that Singer has termed “reverso.”

**Share:** Read the poem “Mirror Mirror” in Marilyn Singer’s book *Mirror Mirror*. Discuss the different perspectives and how reversing the words changed the mood and tone of the poem.

**Activity:** Try your hand at writing reverso poetry using two perspectives. One side should be from your perspective and the other side should be that of a teacher or parent. Choose a familiar topic to write about, such as homework or cleaning your room. First, write your perspective going down, and then try to reverse the lines to make it sound like your teacher or parent. Start by doing only 3-4 lines, then play with the words until you get what you want.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF REVERSO</th>
<th>Your perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUR perspective</td>
<td>An ADULT perspective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have your poem, try to draw an illustration similar to the ones created by Josee Masse in *Mirror Mirror*. On one side, illustrate your view of the topic, and on the other illustrate how the adult views your topic.

**Extension:** Write a persuasive essay about your topic. Be sure to include valid points to support your opinion and defend your position.

**Correlates to Common Core Standards:** Reading Standards for Literature Range of Reading and Level of Complexity 3.10, 4.10, and 5.10. Writing Standards Text Types and Purposes 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1.

**Other titles by Marilyn Singer:**
Learn more about Marilyn Singer on her website: marilynsinger.net.