Have you ever wondered about the underwater wibbles who dive exclusively on cheese? Or asked why alligators are so unfriendly? Or questioned what life would be like if your precious nose were sandwiched in-between your toes? Well, Jack Prelutsky has! His clever, hilarious, off-beat poetry has long been a favorite of educators (and children!) across the country. Now, TheatreworksUSA has transformed his most famous poetry anthology into a new musical revue, with music by John Forster. A great way to get kids excited about poetry!

There’s a new kid on the block,
    And boy, that kid is tough,
That new kid punches hard,
That new kid plays real rough,
That new kid’s big and strong,
    With muscles everywhere,
That new kid tweaked my arm,
That new kid pulled my hair.

That new kid likes to fight,
    And picks on all the guys,
That new kid scares me some,
(That new kid’s twice my size),
That new kid stomped my toes,
That new kid swiped my ball,
That new kid’s really bad,
I don’t care for her at all.

You need to have an iron rear
To sit upon a cactus,
Or otherwise, at least a year
Of very painful practice.

A cow’s outside is mainly hide.
Undoubtedly this leather
Retains a cow’s insides inside,
And holds a cow together.

New York is in North Carolina.
Seattle is found in Peru.
New Mexico borders on Norway and Italy.
Boston’s near Kalamazoo.
Quebec is a town in Hawaii.
Connecticut lies in Trieste.
(Those are a few of the answers I wrote
When I flunked my geography test.)

Art by James Stevenson from The New Kid on the Block.
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The New Kid on the Block

JACK PRELUTSKY (poetry) was born in Brooklyn, New York. He attended New York City Public Schools and studied voice at the High School of Music and Art. He enrolled in Hunter College in Manhattan but left soon after “to become a beatnik.” Jack has been a cab driver, a busboy, a photographer, a furniture mover, a potter, and a folk singer. He enjoys bicycling, playing racquetball, woodworking and cooking. He lives in Washington State with his wife Carolynn and a vast collection of poetry books and frogs in every shape, size, and form—except living! There was a time when Jack couldn’t stand poetry. In grade school he had a teacher who left him with the impression that poetry was the literary equivalent of liver. He rediscovered poetry in his twenties, and he decided that he would write about things that kids really cared about, and that he would strive to make poetry delightful. If you are twelve or under, you have probably read—and memorized—at least one poem by Jack Prelutsky. He has been writing poetry for more than twenty years and has published more than three dozen books for children.

JOHN FORSTER (music) began writing and performing his unique brand of musical theatre and satire as an undergraduate at Harvard, where he founded the long-running revue The Proposition and wrote for the Hasty Pudding. His critically acclaimed first solo album, "Entering Marion," was released in 1994 on Philo/Rounder Records and won a NAIRD Award (the "Independents' Grammies"). John's songs are well known to children and their parents for the many award-winning albums he has written and produced for Tom Chapin (on Sony), as well as multi-platinum music videos and albums he has written and produced for the Olsen Twins (on BMG and Warner Vision) and Rosenshontz (Lightyear/BMG). John was also recently nominated for a Grammy Award for his work on Tom Chapin's latest album, In My Hometown. His book musicals include Into The Light on Broadway, The Dream Team at Goodspeed Opera House and Eleanor at Chicago's Marriott Lincolnshire. He has provided songs for the Off Broadway hits Upstairs at O’Neals and Pretzels (in which he also preformed), as well as Let Freedom Sing at the Kennedy Center in Washington and a host of other revues. For NBC, he provided songs for the perennial How To Eat Like A Child, starring Dick Van Dyke. For TheatreworksUSA, he recently wrote book and lyrics for a musical version of Freaky Friday, with music by its original author Mary Rodgers, as well as First Lady, The Jack Sprat Low-Fat World Tour, Young Teddy Roosevelt, and several others.

Founded in 1961, TheatreworksUSA is America’s foremost professional theatre for young and family audiences. Its goal is to create imaginative and sophisticated shows that are educational, entertaining, and though provoking. Theatreworks has the distinction of being the only children’s theatre company that has won both a Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Award from New York’s theatre critics. And most recently, the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award was presented to Theatreworks “for its artistic vision and commitment to the support and development of theatre artists.” Performing at home in New York, and touring across the country to theatres, arts centers and schools, Theatreworks has performed for approximately 72 million people in 49 states, with an annual audience of over 4 million.

For more information, please contact:

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