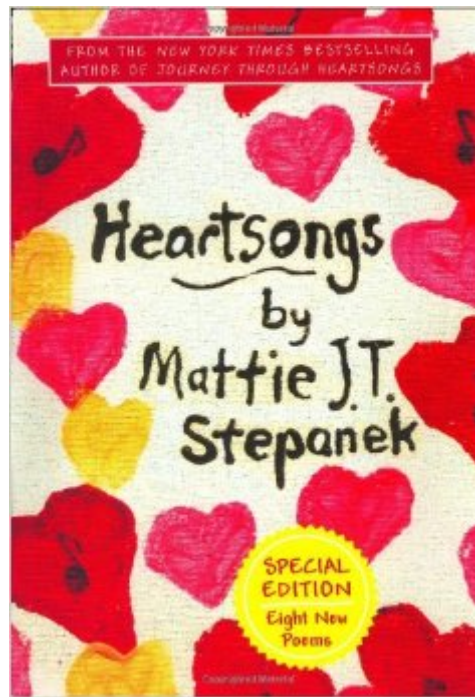


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# Heartsongs



## Synopsis

Now available in hardcover, a special gift edition with 16 pages of new poems and illustrations, the national bestseller that introduced millions of people to Mattie J.T. Stepanek

## Book Information

Hardcover: 43 pages

Publisher: Hachette Books; 1st edition (August 27, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 078686947X

ISBN-13: 978-0786869473

Product Dimensions: 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (128 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #161,301 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry](#) #65 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Inspirational](#) #170 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Inspirational & Religious](#)

Age Range: 18 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

Honestly...all of those who want to place poets in a general "poetry" category. Poetry is not a race to place one person at the top of a long list of other poets he or she supercede. Anyone who believes in qualifying great writers that easily is not a student of literature. To try and compare Mattie Stepanek to Sylvia Plath (or Sharon OLDS) is to try and compare Mattie's life to Sylvia's or Sharon's. Or to Shakespeare's. Motivations, inspirations, era, context...all alter the development of a writing style. Great works are determined not by comparing works line by line, but by gathering all elements of the writer's life and placing them within context of what the writer composed. At 13, Mattie had composed thousands of poems, and passed away after living his life, though burdened, to the fullest extent. At 13, Sylvia Plath was beginning her foray into writing that would haunt and torture her to her suicidal death. Mattie WAS an amazing writer--his style is simple, yet evocative, and sometimes brutally honest. He doesn't mince words or disguise his hope or hurt with difficult metaphor. Burdened by a disease that made writing--nay, LIVING--difficult, he confronted it with a passion exemplified in his writings. Can you compare him to Shakespeare, Byron, Yeats? In some

ways yes--his life influenced his art--in some ways no--he only lived to be 13, while the others struggled through the pangs of adolescence, through heartbreak, through adulthood's love and loss--not to mention a lifetime of literary study, while Mattie had but 8 years, at the most. But he WILL be remembered, like Shel Silverstein will be remembered, because the quality of his poetry is remarkable for who he WAS.

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