

# Poetry Resources

## Fragile

Cyanide....  
Our worlds collide,  
Spray it on-  
Fish all gone.

The reef teems with vitality,  
But we know of its fragility.

So, if you become aware,  
Of those who do not really care,

Demonstrate  
Educate  
Donate  
Legislate

Why let the world of human sins  
Destroy unique origins?

## Community

The parrotfish with brilliant hues,  
The angelfish of greenish blues,

The damselfish with yellow fin,  
A flounder who is flat and thin,

The corals: ribbon, brain and star,  
Delicate and living - yes, they are.

The puffer - up it blows,  
The moray eel - snakelike it goes.

The swaying of the fine sea fan,  
The grouper - red, yellow, and tan,

The spiny urchin of the sea,  
All of the reef community!

*By Ann Hart*

The following four poems are by Valerie Worth from her book "All the Small Poems and Fourteen More" published in Canada by Harper Collins Canada LTD.

### **crab**

The dead crab  
Lies still,  
limp on the dry sand,

All strength to crawl  
Gone from his  
Hard shell-

But he keeps a shape  
Of old anger  
Curved along his claws.

### **seashell**

My father's mother  
picked up the shell  
And turned it about  
In her hand that was  
Crinkled, glossy and  
Twined with veins,  
The finger rumples  
Into soft roses  
At the knuckles, and  
She said, "Why did  
That little creature  
Take so much trouble  
To be beautiful?"

## **starfish**

Spined  
With sparks  
Limbed  
With flames,

Climbing  
The dark  
To cling  
And shine

Until the  
Slow tide  
Turns  
Again:

Not even  
Knowing  
What stars  
Are  
But  
Even so,  
The Same.

## **octopus**

Marvel at the  
Awful many-armed  
Sea-god Octopus,  
And the coiled  
Elbows of his eager  
Eightfold embrace:

Yet also at this  
Tapered tender  
Fingertips, ferrying  
Their great brow  
Along the sea floor  
In solitary grace.

**Some more poems of interest:**

“See What I Found”  
By Myra Cohn Livingston  
From: The Sand, Sea and Me Poems  
Selected by M. Jean Craig Walker and Co.

“The Shark”  
By Lord Alfred Douglas  
From: The Mermaid and Other Sea Poems, compiled by Sophie  
Windén,  
Scholastic, Inc.

“Ocean”  
By Joan Bransfield  
From: Scholastic  
Ticknor and Fields

“The Fish Are All Sick”  
By Anne Stevenson  
From Mother Earth Father Sky, Poems of Our Planet  
Selected by Jane Yolen