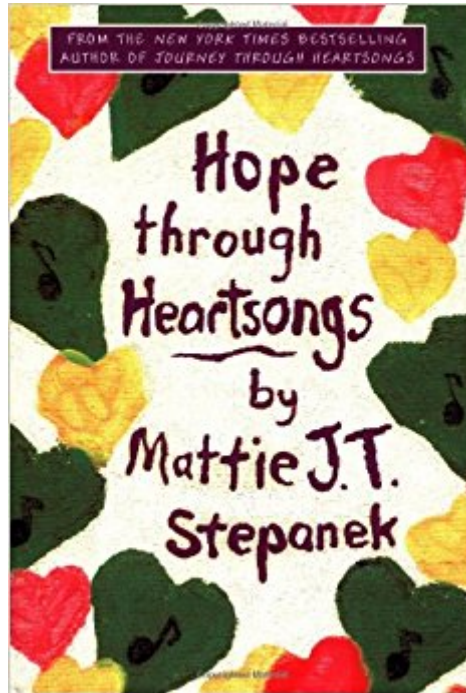


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# Hope Through Heartsongs



## Synopsis

The award-winning bestselling poetry of 11-year-old Mattie Stepanek has touched the lives of hundreds and thousands of people. From Heartsongs, to Vietnam War Memorial, to Prayer for a Journey, Mattie has written movingly and courageously about life and death, love and loss, faith and hope, innocence and joy. His struggle with a rare form of muscular dystrophy has given him wisdom and insight, and his life, work, and message have been recognized by Oprah, National Public Radio, The Washington Post, ABC TV's Good Morning America, People, NBC TV's the Today show, and C- PAN's BookTV.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 133 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #624,233 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry](#) #214 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Inspirational](#) #784 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles > Inspirational & Religious](#)

Grade Level: 8 and up

## Customer Reviews

The celebrated child Mattie J.T. Stepanek continues his internationally inspiring poetry with Hope Through Heartsongs. For those who haven't followed Stepanek's rise to fame, this young phenomenon writes poetry that is wise beyond his years and has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show and Larry King Live. Indeed, as Gary Zukav marvels in the book's foreword, Stepanek's wisdom seems to extend beyond what most human beings master in a lifetime. "A heartsong is something deep inside each of us," Mattie Stepanek explains in his introduction. "It's our sense of why we are here and how we can keep going. It's like a purpose. It may be to live as a mommy or a daddy, or a firefighter or a delivery person, or a child with a disability who teaches others about patience and love and acceptance." As a child living with muscular dystrophy who has lost all three

of his siblings to the same disease, Stepanek knows the landscape of loss and grief. How easy it would be to wallow in despair, yet Stepanek has chosen hope--not the wide-eyed hope of the innocent, but the hope consciously chosen in the face of human suffering and troubling global problems. Many believe that global healing has to start with the little people and move its way up to the leaders. What better place to begin than with the words of this amazing child? You may be tall I may be small, But inside we are the same length of strength --Mattie J.T. Stepanek, June 1998 --Gail Hudson

Adult/High School-Teens will be touched by the poetic observations of this preteen author. Both he and the words he chooses are exceptional in many ways. Stepanek has a rare form of muscular dystrophy, but his writing and positive outlook are more powerful than his physically debilitating disease. Readers are introduced to his views about illness, imagery, relationships, peace, prayer, fear, and perseverance. All are filled with hope, reflecting his philosophy to "remember to play after every storm." A selection written on and about September 11, 2001, is included. A few illustrations are added to the mix of poems, which are dated by month and year. Karen Sokol, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Touches your heart. I bought used and they look brand new !!!

ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE POEMS AND HIS STORY.

I read this book first before sending it on to my second cousin for his 12th birthday. He has "butterfly skin" and has been interviewed on the "The Doctors". Mattie and John Hudson Dilgen have much in common. Both diseases are fatal, but, then, aren't we all, although not with this degree of suffering. Both boys have wisdom and perseverance. I was moved by Mattie's insight.

I have collected all of Mattie Stepanek books and recommend all of them. Also, Messenger, written by Jeni Stepanek, his mother. She takes you through his battle with a rare disorder called dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy. His mother also has it. He lost the fight at the age of 14, but his journey is so uplifting and inspiring. After reading her book, you will want to read all of his poetry. He made friends with many influential people. Jimmy Carter, Oprah, Maya Angelo and more. What a teacher he was and continues with his books.

this is a wonderful book--all too often you find the most dire circumstances create such wonderful thoughts--kids are so perceptive

Sweet. Inspiring. Amazing. Graceful. Hopeful. My boys and I are so glad to be reading Mattie's writing. And to have been able to find a terrific copy of the 3 book set. His legacy continues. I also recommend reading Mattie's mom's personal story: "Messenger...". Extraordinary family altogether.

Beautifully packaging for even more beautiful poems by a remarkable boy. Mattie's insights thru poetry are mature far beyond his years and make me smile and cry, but most of all stay with me. I recommend it to poets young and old -- and thoughtful readers anywhere. That he wrote his poetry before his death at age 14 is remarkable. J Lindy

It was cute - a good introduction to poetry by kids for kids. It got so much hype, I expected a lot more from the book.

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