

“Reading these poems will help me live with greater heart.”

- John Fox, Author of *Poetic Medicine*

“An authentic, engaging, and inquisitive voice...”

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“What if you met someone who told the truth—in church, at the door when a stranger comes, or somewhere along the road. Would that not be precious, and you wish you had that truth written down so you could be changed again and again by the power of a few direct words? Read this book and live with new courage.”

- Kim Stafford, author of *The Muses Among Us*

Please Use This for Children and Not for War and Guns

By **CYNTHIA BLOMQUIST GUSTAVSON**

Gustavson returns to the ghosts of the sand hills, and to the haunts of politics and family tragedy. These are true poems from Minnesota's black-footed daughter.

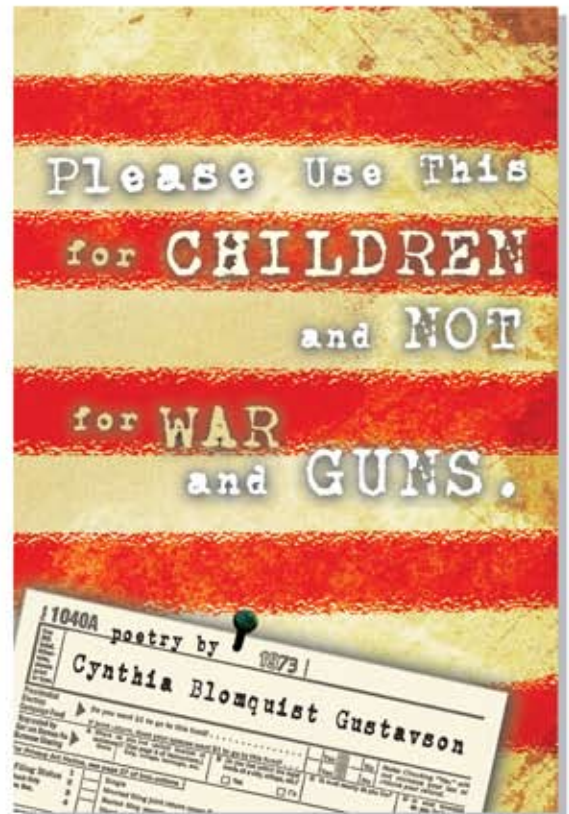
From "Please Use These Words For Children," an activist poem about her simple letter to the government along with her family's taxes saying, "Please use this for children, and not for war and guns..." to a poem about a conversation between a mid-western mother and her daughter about long-kept secrets over an empty ice-cream bucket filled with lily-of-the-valley slips, to "The Poem that Needs to be Written" about the red-haired child growing up to be gay, Gustavson confronts issues seldom tackled in mainstream poetry.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CYNTHIA BLOMQUIST GUSTAVSON is the award-winning author of five poetry collections, and has been published in numerous journals. She has a family therapy practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she resides with her husband of 40 years, a pediatrician who all too frequently takes care of neglected children. She was educated at Gustavus Adolphus College, Boston University, Louisiana State University, United Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Oklahoma State University, and has taught at Northeastern State University in Talleguah, Oklahoma, and Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana.

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