Where do we go to seek comfort when we’re sad, angry, or afraid? This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort demonstrates that even in our darkest hour, we can find solace—in places or people, and even in pictures and poems. In memory of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, eighteen renowned picture book artists donated their time, talents, and earnings to illustrate poems selected by Georgia Heard, written by such esteemed poets as Wendell Berry, Gwendolyn Brooks, Emily Dickinson, Lillian Morrison, and Walt Whitman. The result is an unprecedented volume of life-affirming verse that is as richly diverse as it is powerful, as beautiful as it is full of heart. This Place I Know: words and images of grief, comfort, and hope, for all of us.

“I kept asking myself one question: What words can comfort? I tried to choose poems that touch upon our feelings of fear and loss, remind us that we are not alone in despair, and assure us that dreams can be born even from tragedy.

My hope is that these beautiful and powerful poems and images will help children in New York City and all over the world—as Gwendolyn Brooks proclaims in ‘A Little Girl’s Poem’— ‘to live,’ ‘to laugh,’ and ‘to sing’ again.”

—Georgia Heard, poet and anthologist, This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort

“The events of September 11, 2001, left many people feeling like the broken-winged bird mentioned in the poem. . . . I wanted to show the joy that can come from holding fast to our dreams.”

—Matt Tavares, illustrator of “Dreams” by Langston Hughes

“Though something tremendous and sad has changed us all, I am comforted by the beauty of the night sky.”

—Yumi Heo, illustrator of “Stars” by Deborah Chandra

“I often find myself using my hands to frame little sections of the world. . . . ‘Holes’ inspired in me the representation of something no longer there.”

—Shane W. Evans, illustrator of “Holes” by Lillian Morrison
“One day, I noticed the shell that sits on my windowsill. It looked . . . like a monument to things that remain.”
—Petra Mathers, illustrator of “Strengthen the Things That Remain” by Nancy Wood

“I’ve lived in coastal towns and mountain towns, in wide-open desert places and narrow, jungly canyons, but living in cities has taught me what it means to be human.”
—Jill McElmurry, illustrator of “Commitment in a City” by Margaret Tsuda

“Smelling the earth and hearing the sounds of nature are powerful reminders that life is good.”
—Kevin Hawkes, illustrator of “The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry

“I continue to be amazed by the city of New York—every day I wake up to a new dream of a new world.”
—Peter Sís, illustrator of “What do you think endures?” from “Song of the Broad-Axe” by Walt Whitman

“Oh a quiet night, the moon makes me feel at home, no matter where I am.”
—Hiroe Nakata, illustrator of “Hold Fast Your Dreams” by Louise Driscoll

“I painted this picture of the southern tip of Manhattan . . . even a glimpse of the Statue of Liberty—all bits of this place I know and love.”
—Chris Raschka, illustrator of “The Beginning” by Ann Turner

Perhaps some comfort can be found here, in the place where images and words come together.”
—Holly Meade, illustrator of “This Place” by Eloise Greenfield

Candlewick Press and contributors will donate a minimum of 20% of the retail price per book to Save the Children.