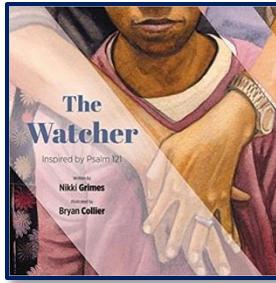


# The Watcher



## A Golden Shovel Poem

Do you like poetry? Have you ever written a poem? *Golden Shovel* is a complex form of poetry. To write a *Golden Shovel* poem, you take an existing poem, then create a new poem using words from the original poem. Choose a line or verse from the original poem, then arrange the words one by one in the righthand margin of your page. Then write your own poem with each line ending in one of these words. The words must be in the same order as the original. That means that the first line of your new poem ends with the first word of the original poem. If the original verse has six words, then the poem you create will have six lines. Here is an example I quickly wrote:



*Poetry can help you be aware of your emotions - of what is in*

*Your heart. When you write about your feelings, the*

*Words paint a picture of who you are. Writing might be the beginning*

*of opening yourself to others as it was*

*for me. I am closest to Creation, closest to God when I write. The*

*lines that I write after being silent... after listening, bring me closer to the Word.*

This is the style of poetry used by author Nikki Grimes in her book, **THE WATCHER**. In it, she uses Psalm 121 to inspire her poem about a girl who is a bully and the boy she picks on. Both realized, like the author of the Psalm, that God is watching over us. In response to God's word, the characters in the story begin to see other people and to treat them differently. The book's art by Bryan Collier uses a combination of watercolor and photography collage to create a memorable story that touches our heart as it reminds us of God's love.

This book, and many other new arrivals, will be offered for checkout at the Presbytery meeting May 16 at First Presbyterian Church in Morgantown, WV. **After** that date, you may reserve it to check out when available.

*This newsletter was lovingly brought to you by the:*



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