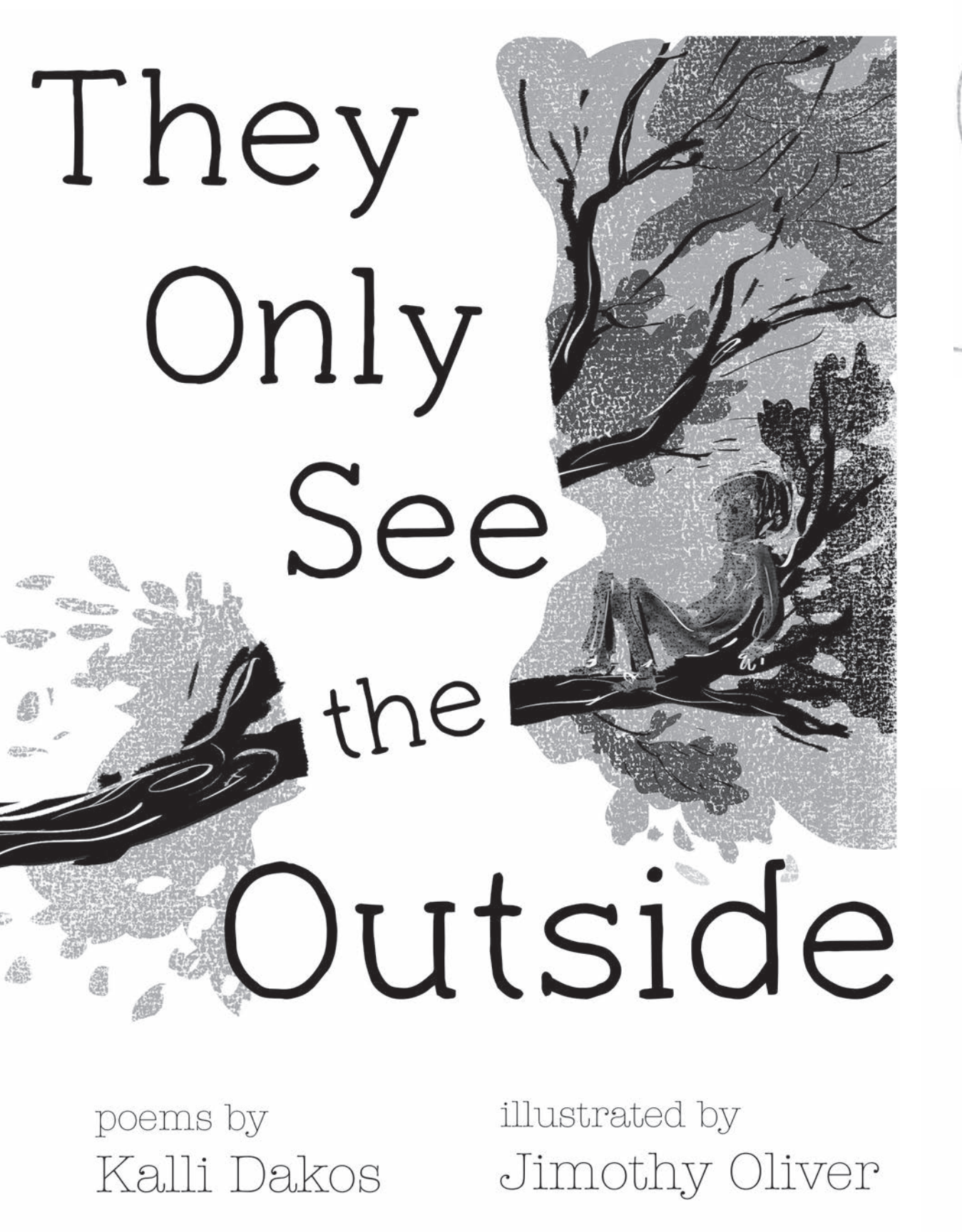


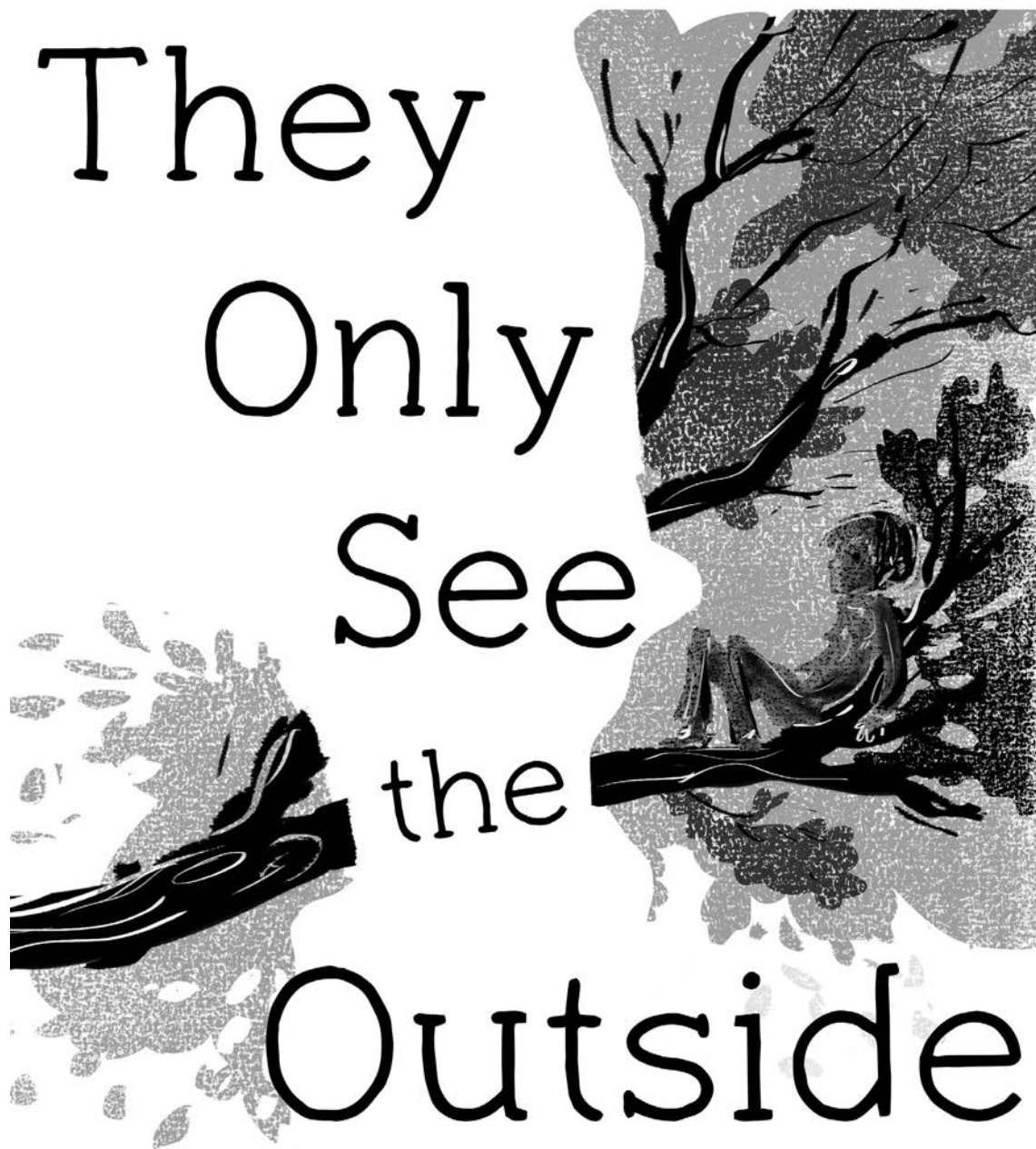
They Only See the Outside



poems by
Kalli Dakos

illustrated by
Jimothy Oliver

They Only See the Outside

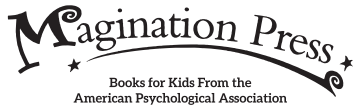


poems by Kalli Dakos • illustrated by Jimothy Oliver

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American Psychological Association



*To Kristine, John, Sarah, Scott, Katie, Dave, and to all
the children who will join our family one day—KD*



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With thanks to Laura Cinkant—KD

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Contents

Introducing a New Me	1
Don't Tell Me	2
On the Day My Dog Died	3
Talking to the Mirror in the Bathroom	4
We Giggle the Same	5
The Fight	6
Goodbye Grandma	7
Ode to My Stress Ball	8
Something Splendid	9
I Heard You When You Lied	11
If You Have to Say Goodbye	12
J. T. Never Will Be Ten	13
Were You Ever Fat Like Me?	19
Even Me	25
Countdown to Recess	27
Homework	28

I Called My Teacher Mommy	29
A Fire Drill in My Underwear	30
They Put a Band-Aid on My Head	31
When They Call Me Bad Names	32
I Will Never Crumble	33
When a Friend Moves Away	36
I Cannot Leave on the Last Day of School	37
The Shark on the Playground	39
The Most Important Time	42
Four Wishes	48
The Book That Made Danny Cry	54
Why I'm Late for School	56
Looking in the Mirror at <i>Didn't Do</i>	57
They Only See the Outside	58

Introducing a New Me

There's a new ME this year,
an on-time ME,
a clean-desk ME,
a first-to-hand-in-assignments ME,
a listens-in-class-to-the-teacher ME,
a teacher's-pet-for-the-first-time-in-my-life ME,
an always-willing-to-be-good-and-help-out ME,
a dead-serious-get-the-work-done-and-hand-it-in-*before*-it's-due ME.

The problem is
the new ME
is not like ME
at all.



Don't Tell Me

Don't tell me
I won't fail,
for it might
not be true.

Just tell me
you'll still
love me
even if I do.



On the Day My Dog Died

On the day
my dog died,

I cried
and cried
and cried.

This is my
whole poem.
There's nothing
more to say.

I cried
and cried
and cried

on the day
my dog died.



Talking to the Mirror in the Bathroom

Someone did something
really bad to me.
“You must tell a grown-up,”
said the lady on TV.

Should I tell my teacher,
Mirror Mirror on the wall?
The principal, the counselor,
the librarian, Mrs. Fall?

Should I tell a friend,
Mirror Mirror tell me true?
Or Mrs. Kay in music,
would she know what to do?

I’ve made my decision.
I’m walking down the hall.
The books are here to help me,
and so is Mrs. Fall.

