

# NYBG

## Poetry for Every Season: *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup> Teacher's Guide

### About the Exhibition:

The *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup> is a dynamic winter display in NYBG's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. The exhibition features model trains in a miniature landscape of New York landmarks recreated in plant material.

The accompanying Poetry Walk displays poems by Billy Collins, a former U.S. Poet Laureate and New York native. The featured poems capture his impressions of the landscape and New York architecture in winter, as well as the enchanting nature of train travel.

As a pre-visit or post-visit activity, school groups are invited to read and react to one of Collins' poems from the Poetry Walk, to examine the attached photographs of the *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup> and NYBG in winter, and to use their impressions to create their own original poetry.

# NYBG

**Grand Central**  
Billy Collins

The city orbits around eight million  
centers of the universe

and turns around the golden clock  
at the still point of this place.

Lift up your eyes from the moving hive  
and you will see time circling

under a vault of stars and know  
just when and where you are.

Reprinted by permission of the author

Model train in the *Holiday Train Show*®





Thain Family Forest



Holiday trees in the Reflecting Pool





Midtown scene in the *Holiday Train Show*®



Model of Grand Central Terminal





Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in winter



Enid A. Haupt Conservatory model





Brooklyn Bridge model with trolleys

