A Guide to the Naomi Shihab Nye Papers

1955 - 2010s, bulk (1970s - 2010s)

Collection 133

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Naomi Shihab Nye, 1952-
Title: Naomi Shihab Nye Papers, 1955-2010s, bulk 1970s - 2010s
Dates: 1955 - 2010s (bulk 1970s-2010s)
Abstract: Naomi Shihab Nye, acclaimed poet who also writes essays, songs, novels, and children’s books; edits poetry anthologies, and teaches poetry writing to youth and adults, was born in 1952 in St. Louis, Missouri to Aziz Shihab, a journalist and immigrant from Palestine, and Miriam Shihab, a Montessori teacher with a fine arts degree in painting. Forty-eight document boxes and seven oversized boxes containing drafts, diaries and notebooks, photographic material, correspondence, and published material document the working life of poet, writer, and educator Naomi Shihab Nye (1952-).
Identifier: Collection # 133
Extent: 48 document boxes and 7 oversized boxes (30 linear feet).
Language: Materials are in English
Repository: The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Item name, item date, box number, folder number, Naomi Shihab Nye Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Acquisition Information

Materials received from Naomi Shihab Nye in 2017.

Processing Information

Processed by Lauren Goodley in 2020, with Susannah Broyles and Carol Alvarez.

Related Material

A collection of 53.6 linear feet (115 boxes and 1 drawer of oversize material) of additional Naomi Shihab Nye Papers are held at the University of Texas at San Antonio Special Collections, described here: https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utsa/00125/utsa-00125.html.
Biographical Sketch

Overview

Naomi Shihab Nye, acclaimed poet who also writes essays, songs, novels, and children’s books; edits poetry anthologies, and teaches poetry writing to youth and adults, was born in 1952 in St. Louis, Missouri to Aziz Shihab, a journalist and immigrant from Palestine, and Miriam Shihab, a Montessori teacher with a fine arts degree in painting. Nye has won numerous awards, including her first major recognition for *Hugging the Jukebox* as a National Poetry Series selection in 1982, critical acclaim for her 2011 short story collection *There Is No Long Distance Now: Very Short Stories*, Best Books for Young Adults several times from the American Library Association, and the gratitude of San Antonio Independent School District teachers for her poetry teaching packets. Nye is a Lannan Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and Poetry Foundation Young People’s Poet Laureate for 2019-2021. Nye referred to herself as an “itinerant writer,” referring to the twelve years from 1974-1986 she spent teaching poetry in schools around Texas, while also writing and publishing. Nye lists her early influences, starting at age five, as Carl Sandberg, Margaret Wise Brown, Emily Dickinson, William Blake, and Louisa May Alcott. High School and college influences include Henry David Thoreau, Jack Kerouac, Gregory Corso, Gary Snyder, Gertrude Stein, and William Stafford; the last of whom Nye was able to work with, and she became friends with Stafford and his family.

Nye began writing early in life, publishing poetry at age 7 and continuing throughout her childhood. She wrote a column for teens in high school, and while teaching across Texas and the country she continued to write and publish. While teaching children poetry during the Gulf War, which began in 1991, Nye read the students poetry written by Iraqi writers, and ultimately edited *This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World*, which includes 129 poets from 68 countries. Her young adult novel *Going Going*, 2005, is an attempt to recognize and document her neighborhood in San Antonio, Texas as it changed due to gentrification. This attention to the connection of people across the world, and their local daily realities, imbues Nye’s work. For Nye, the best audience is children, and she does not recognize a distinction between adult and children’s writing. While writing poetry for adults in the 1970s and 1980s, Nye searched for cross-over texts to use with the young people she was teaching. In the 1990s her editor Virginia Duncan suggested she write for children, which she did with *Sitti’s Secrets*, and continues today. To date, Nye has published audio recordings of songs she wrote and sang; children’s books, including picture books, poetry, poetry anthologies, and young adult novels; written and edited poetry for adults; served as a columnist for *Organica* and poetry editor for *Texas Observer*; and contributed to numerous poetry anthologies and periodicals.
Early Life and Family

Naomi Nye and her family moved to Jerusalem when she was in high school, around 1965, where she met her father’s family for the first time. Nye attended a school that instructed in Arabic, Armenian, and English, though she only knew English. After the 6-Day War in 1967, she moved with her parents and brother to San Antonio, Texas, where she still resides. Nye graduated from high school in Texas without ever having attended a football game, and in honor of this accomplishment the football players bought her a mum. Nye attended Trinity University in San Antonio and lived with her parents. She graduated summa cum laude in 1974 with a degree in English and World Religions. In 1978, Nye married Michael Nye, a lawyer-turned-photographer, and in 1986 they had a son, Madison Cloudfeather. After college, Naomi and Michael traveled extensively in Mexico and Central America, which produced many unpublished (?) poems from this time period, and in response to the Mexican American culture in San Antonio but lack of Mexican culture, the anthology *The Tree Is Older than You Are: A Bilingual Gathering of Poems and Stories from Mexico with Paintings by Mexican Artists*, decades later in 1995. Nye continued her high school work of essayist, writing numerous articles on topics from poetry to politics to housework for various newspapers, served as a columnist for *Organica: A Magazine of Art and Activism*, and as poetry editor for *The Texas Observer*.

Non-Writing Work

Nye was the most active employee at the Texas Commission on the Arts Writers in the Schools Project, working across Texas and publishing chapbook and poetry. She stopped this work in 1986 when her son was born. Nye also worked as a visiting instructor or writer in residence across US colleges and schools, as well as internationally, including at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Hawai’i Manoa, the University of Texas at Austin and at San Antonio, and Texas State University in San Marcos. Nye also contributed to two PBS television series, the “Language of Life” with Bill in 1995, and “The United States of Poetry” in 1996. As a young woman in the late 1970s, Nye wrote songs and played guitar and sang in coffee shops and for schoolchildren. She recorded an album of children’s songs, *Rutabaga-Roo* in 1979, and an album of folk songs, *Lullaby Raft* in 1981. Nye writes for adults and children, is adept in multiple genres, finds home in her backyard and wherever in the world she travels, and teaches and edits anthologies as well as writes poetry. Similarly, she is both loving and accepting of all people, and a fierce activist for peace and justice.
List of Works For Children


For Children; Editor


For Adults

- *Tattooed Feet*, Texas Portfolio (Texas City, TX), 1977.
- *Eye-to-Eye*, Texas Portfolio (Texas City, TX), 1978.
- *Different Ways to Pray*, Breitenbush Publications (Portland, OR), 1980.
- *Words under the Words: Selected Poems*, Far Corner Books/Eighth Mountain Press (Portland,
OR), 1995.
- (Editor) *Between Heaven and Texas*, University of Texas Press (Austin, TX), 2006.

Recordings
- *Lullaby Raft* (folk songs), Flying Cat (San Antonio, TX), 1981.

Other


Sources:


Naomi Nye Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.
**Scope and Content Note**

Forty-eight document boxes and seven oversized boxes containing drafts, diaries and notebooks, photographic material, correspondence, and published material document the working life of poet, writer, and educator Naomi Shihab Nye (1952- ). The collection has been arranged into seven series: Series I: Personal and Biographical; Series II: Works; Series III: Correspondence; Series IV: Instruction; Series V: Appearances and Awards; Series VI: Writings on Nye; and Series VII: Works by Others. Multiple drafts of published and unpublished songs, poems, short stories, and essays document Nye’s creative work from an early age through high school, college, and adulthood. While her own books are not as well documented, Nye’s work as editor of several poetry collections is well-documented. Of note is correspondence with long-time editor Virginia Duncan, which documents their working relationship as well as several projects. Also of note is Shihab Nye’s teaching work, documented via poems written by children, clippings, and reports.

**Series Descriptions**

**Series I: Personal and Biographical, 1958-2010s**  
**Boxes 1-2**

Personal and Biographical materials contain legal, family, and biographical materials, and photographic materials. Legal documents include contracts and copyright papers for very early works and songs, library card, vaccinations and passport. Biographical material includes multiple vitas, online biographies and publication lists, and school and family documents. Of note is a college reunion questionnaire and a Guggenheim application with reference letter from Charles Busch. Photographs many headshots and portraits, including some by photographer and husband Michael Nye. Certain events are well documented in photographs, including gatherings of family and friends, and work-related events.

**Series II: Works, 1963-2018 and undated, Boxes 2-31.**


Diaries and Notebooks are arranged chronologically and include diary entries starting at age eight, and ideas and drafts for poems and longer writings. Individual works are noted where possible. Artwork and Early Work document a small amount of grade school, high school, and college creative work. Music contains many songs arranged alphabetically by title; some songs include chords, notes, and corrections, and there is some overlap in titles with Poems.

Poems make up the bulk of this series, with 7 ½ boxes of poems, including unpublished works and early writings from Nye’s travels in Central and South America in the 1970s. Poems are arranged alphabetically by title, and vary from single drafts of unmarked poems, to multiple drafts with annotations and corrections. There is overlap in titles with Music, Monographs, and
Publications.

Monographs-Poetry, Monographs-Edited Poetry, and Monographs-Prose contain materials related to published books for children and adults, arranged by publication date. Contents vary widely by title from one letter or review, to multiple drafts and correspondence.

Editor Correspondence contains letters and faxes between Nye and longtime editor Virginia Duncan and documents their relationship as well as the creation and production of various monographs. This correspondence is placed within the Works series because it often contains full drafts or items that relate to more than one work. As there is overlap with Monographs, researchers are encouraged to review both subseries when investigating a particular work. Some correspondence between Duncan and others, in reference to Nye’s works, is also included.

Stories, Essays, Publications, Art Books, Broadsides, and Talks complete the Works Series. Short Stories and Essays are arranged alphabetically by title. Materials vary from single draft to multiple drafts with annotations and comments. Publications, Art Books, and Broadsides are arranged chronologically and include poems published in journals, and special/limited run publications. Talks are often are not labeled or dated, and they are generally notes for speeches.

Series III: Correspondence, 1960-circa 2010s and undated
Boxes 31-37

The Correspondence Series is divided into A-Z and Family. Note that correspondence with Virginia Duncan is included in Works-Editor Correspondence. Correspondence A-Z is arranged alphabetically by correspondent and includes personal and business correspondence. Letters and emails may include poems by correspondent; this information and the institution and/or related work by Nye is noted when known. Correspondents with multiple letters are housed in separate folders; these include Roberto (Bob) Bonazzi, Ashley Bryan, Edward Hirsch, Albert Huffsttickler, Ted Kooser, Maury Maverick, Jr., Michael W. McCann, William McNamara, William (W.S.) Merwin, John Phillip Santos, William (Bill) Stafford, and Kim and Kit Stafford. Evidence of Nye’s personal relationships with several of these poets and their families is in folders of Stella Kerouac, Barbara Stafford Wilson, and in particular Dorothy Stafford and Paula Merwin. Family Correspondence includes the Shihabs and the Nyes, and is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Series IV: Instruction, circa 1970s - circa 2010s
Boxes 38-40

The Instruction Series documents Nye’s considerable teaching work for twelve years in public schools across Texas as part of the Texas Commission on the Arts Writers in the Schools Programs, and in other parts of the United States and particularly the Arabic-speaking world. The bulk of the materials consists of student poems, collected into photocopied or mimeographed publications, many from San Antonio Independent School District schools. Also included are single poems and songs, and student letters and poems, labeled “Testimonials,” by Nye. Lesson plans include the “Rutabaga Roo” teacher packet that Nye shared with San Antonio public school teachers as well as many notes. Business Documents include a proposal, CV, reports to the Texas Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and clippings; Adult Instruction includes limited materials related to instruction at Haystack Program in the Arts, American Cultural Center Lahore, Palestine Poetry Festival, and the University of Hawai’i at Manoa, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and the University of Texas at Austin.

Series V: Appearances and Awards, 1974-2017 and undated
Boxes 40-42

Appearances and Awards document Shihab Nye’s instruction, book promotion, and awards, and generally contain posters, flyers, pamphlets, or promotional materials for the events, and certificates for the awards. Materials include flyers for singing appearances in the late 1970s at coffee shops.

Series VI: Writings on Nye, 1970-2015 and undated
Boxes 43-45 and Oversized Boxes 53-54

Writings on Shihab Nye contain clippings and articles newspapers and magazines. Materials are organized into Interviews, Catalogs, Promotion, Events, Reviews, Clippings, and Magazine Articles. The bulk of the materials are from the San Antonio Express-News and the Dallas Morning-News. Of note are articles documenting Nye’s early career as traveling poet for schools in Texas, profiles from the towns where she led workshops and conferences, and local coverage from a 1984 trip to South America. Also included are unpublished papers and articles.

Boxes 45-48, Oversized Boxes 52 and 55

Works by Others include musical and theatrical adaptations of Nye’s works, Artist Files compiled by Shihab Nye, and Collected and Received materials. Artist Files include clippings on Ashley Bryan, who illustrated Salting the Ocean: 100 Poems by Young Poets. Artist Files also include drafts, clippings, publications, correspondence, and other materials by Texas writers Roberto Bonazzi, Sandra Cisneros, Albert Huffstickler, Jack Myers, John Phillip Santos, and San Antonio politician Maury Maverick, Jr. Also included are Michael Nye draft and article and considerable writings and correspondence by Nye’s father Aziz Shihab. Note that these files organized by Nye are separate from letters found in Series III: Correspondence. Collected and received materials include chapbooks, exhibition catalogs, broadsides, publications, poems, prose, art, and various collected clippings and newspapers.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal and Biographical, 1958-circa 2010s.

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<td>Photographs, 1955 - circa 2010s.</td>
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<td>Headshots and Portraits, circa 1970s - circa 2010s.</td>
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<td>By Michael Nye, circa 1970s. 3 5x7 b&amp;w photographs.</td>
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Various, circa 1970s - circa 2010s. 33 color and b&w photographs of various sizes, including 8x10, contact sheet with son as a toddler, driver’s license, and university ID.

**Family and Friends, 1955-2009.**

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Nye with others, circa 1970s – circa 1990s. (21) color and b&w photographs of various sizes.


Robert Bonazzi, (2) 4x6 color photographs, one with Nye.


**Events, 1976-2014.**

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Reading event and photography exhibit, March, 1985 and undated.


“Falls Church, VA,” circa 1995.

“Naomi Shihab Tree Dedication,” circa 2006.


“Our Storm King Art Center Weekend, Oct. 24-25, 2009.”


Golden Rose Award, June 26, 2011. Series of (5) 8 x 10 color photographs by Malcolm Greenway.


"PoetryLife 2013."
“Naomi Shihab Nye, ASD, 2014,” American School of Doha in Doha, Qatar.

Other events, circa 1970s - circa 1990s. Includes instruction, singing with guitar, and readings.

Unidentified, circa 1970s - circa 1990s and undated.

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Photographs of others, circa 1970s - circa 1990s and undated.

Unidentified negatives and slides, undated.

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**Works, 1963-2017.**

**Diaries, 1963-1973.**

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**Notebooks, 1972-circa 2010.**

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and the Fig Tree," "Days Like This," "How Arabs Have Babies," "The Worst Agony is You Driving Away," notes for songs and chords, and a hand-written resume. 67 pages.


7  Notebook, Oct. 6, 1976-undated.


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Notebook, Dec. 17, 2007 - circa April 3, 2008. Story about Tommy Lee Jones; journal entries in Muscat, Oman, visit to mother's house, Utah, notes on Seymour Hersh on George W. Bush, poem pieces, several "For Daddy" poems. 68 pages.


Notebook, undated. Notes, poems and fragments, sketches, journal entries. 32 pages.


Box Folder
49 4
Notebook, undated. Class exercises, assignments and ideas, notes related to her poems, examples, list of songs for class use. 26 pages.

Box Folder
5 13
Notebook, undated. Poem drafts.

Notebook, undated. Drafts "Golf Tee is Not Me," and "To the IRS," notes.


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Songs, I-J. "I Can Be a Loner Pretty Well," "I found you on the outskirts of the country in my soul," "I Got Wheels," "I saw the sun," "I Was Blue," "I was born on the prairie," "I was cashing a check," "If I cannot love you now," "If I Sang," "It's a desert," "Just Like a Recurring Dream."


Songs, M-N. "Meditation," "More Like Me," "Mostly now my dreams have been serene," "My body is a mystery," "My closet is a little place," "My Heart is Torn Like a Chicken Bone in Two," "My Song," "New Year Song," "Nice," "No Inclinations," "Nobody Home," "Nobody Thinks of Dying in the Middle of the Day."


Songs, Q-R. "Questions," "Ragamuffin Blue Blues Crying Song," "The river is deeper than the puddle in the street," "Rosie took a ship across the sea," "The Rutabaga Song."

Songs, T-U. "Tell me," "Ten Bears," "The Texas Torch," "There are highways stretching endlessly," "There is a small house that hides in the hills," "Those Eyes," "To all the teachers I was mean to," "Two Days Now," "The Unbroken Circle They Sing About," "Uncle Frank's Song."

Songs, W. "Walkin with you on a Sunday," "Walking Out," "Watching You When You're Not Looking," "The Way It Is, The Way It Used to Be," "We Are the Ones," "We will gather all the pieces," "Well the sun is surely sinkin down," "Wheels," "When All is Said and Done, He Is," "When I see your face," "When I Wake up in the Morning," "When I was Born," "When I was Lost," "When You're Not Looking," "Willow willow will ya be my friend?" "Wishes."

Songs, Y. "You are a Quiet Song," "You are Someone," "You Came Through," "You can call this what you like," "Your words are slippery."
Poems, C. “California Time, Texas Time,” “Calling You or Borders,”
“Canoeing with Alligators,” “The Car Wash,” "Cat," "Catalogue Army,”
“Cello,” “Changed,” “Changing My Name,” “Chiapas,” “Chula,” “Clarence,”
“Clean Slate,” “Clearing the Look of Worry Off My Face,” “The Closest to a
Love Poem I’m Ever Going to Get (I Bet),” “Coming Home to Myself,”
“Coming to See the Marfa Lights, Marfa, Texas,” “Coming Up for Air - to
M.B.,” “Companions,” “Compass,” “Concrete,” "Consider his own tall house
– For Ryushin Paul Haller,” “Conversation on Ironing,” “Conversations to be
Packed for Travel,” “Correspondence,” “Courage,” “Cowboys and
Librarians,” “Cross that Line,” “Cursive.”

Poems, D. “Dallas Suburban,” “Dark,” “Darling,” “The Day,” “The Day of
Randy’s Funeral,” “Days We Are Mad with One Another,” “Dead Bees,” “The
Death of a Cat,” “Debris,” “Delivering Poems Books to the Housing Projects,
Victoria Courts, San Antonio,” “Desert David’s Song,” "The Deserted Yard,
“Different Ways to Pray,” “Dinner Party,” “The Dirtiest 4-Letter Word,”
“Disappointment,” “Disarmed,” “Donuts,” “A Door,” “Door to Door,” “The
Dream Bakery Poems,” “Dressing like an Indian,” "Drive Friendly," "Driving
North from Kingsville, Texas,” “Dropping a Line,” “Dying.”

Oh Clock,” “The Endless Indian Nights,” “Enough,” “Envy,” “Escape,” “The
Essential Month of July,” “Estate Sale: The Scrabble Game of a Dead
Woman,” “The Esteemed Writer Never Reads Poetry (after hearing Philip
Roth),” “Even the Crackers,” “The evening sky was as purple as a newly
squashed grape,” “Every Cat Had a Story,” “Every War Looks Good on Paper
Until You Meet the Enemy.”

Poems, Faces-For the First Time. “Faces,” “Faces Coming Out of Carnegie
Hall,” “Fair forlorn,” “Fairbanks, Alaska,” “Family Love,” “Far away up
north my grandpa is dying,” “Farewell to a Robin,” “February,” “February,”
“La Feria,” “Fifty Years,” “The First Poem I Ever Wrote,” “First Things Last,
“The First Time I Was Old,” “Fixing a Russian Watch,” “Flow,” “Fluency -
for Anthony Villarreal,” “Foot in the Village,” “For Aziz, Who Loved
Jerusalem,” “For Bob Bonazzi Who Says the Literal World Is in Order,” “For
Carmon Who Told Me Tonight I Beat Around the Bush,” “For David, in
Canada,” “For days now there has been no wind,” “For Dubby Who Said,
‘What I Would Like to Know Is, How Can Everybody Be Gone When There
Was Never Anybody Here?’”, “For J.W. Who Never Used His Real Name,”
“For Lost and Found Brothers,” “For Luke, Leaving Us,” “For Grandma
Marie, Who Has Been Mostly Forgotten,” “For Nancy who said, ‘Maybe you
need some time to catch up on your writing.,’” “For Nelle, Years Later (Los
Chupaderos Ranch),” “For Mohammed on the Mountain,” “For Mrs. Lane of
Second Grade,” “For My Father Who Always Thinks I Have Been
Somewhere I Haven’t,” “For My Parents Leaving the Country,” “For Our
Father’s Lost Businesses,” “For Palestine and for Israel,” “For Robert at Halloween,” “For Somebody Who Has Trouble Being in a Body,” “For Susan,” “For the First Time He Says….”


Poems, I. “I,” “I am a hooligan,” “I Could Not Curse the Hook,” “I Feel Sorry for Jesus,” “I have no inclination to eat sweets anymore,” “I look into Virginia,” “I move inside the slow breathing,” “I need,” “I Tell Myself the Following Story,” “I was thinking of Poems,” “Ideas Do Not Go Far in the Wilderness,” “If Sadness Had a Head,” “If You Just Start Drawing You Don’t Know Where It’s Going to End Up,” “In Real Life,” “In Unison,” “Instructions Number One,” “Instructions Number Two,” “Intensive Care,” “Interview, Saudi Arabia,” “Invisible,” “Invitation to Restlessness,” “Island,” “It’s Everywhere,” “It’s Hallie Stillwell’s Birthday and What Can We Give Her?.”

Sewing...."


6 Poems, T Train-Time. “T Train,” “Table for One,” “Take-Off Poem,” “Talking Forever – for Palestine and Dareen Tatour,” “Tasting Your Food,” “Tea Seller, Rajasthan,” “Ted Kooser Is My President,” “Telephone,” “The Telling of Time,” “Texas Cavaliers Cancel River Parade,” “Texas Grill, Thanksgiving Eve,” “Texas in the Old Days,” “Texas, the First Time,” “Thank You,” “That Skinny Tip of Land,” “There Is a Box in my Closet Full of Hugging,” “There is a Huge, Dead Raccoon Under the Boat Get it Out and Why?,” “There Is, in Each of Us,” “There is a place where every day has a crown,” “There is magic in this scrubbed land,” “There is the worry of a mother who hears her son,” “There Should Be a Suggestion of Firmness in the Cooked Poetry,” “These Days,” “Think of You I’ll Think of Me,” “Thinking About Cows at Ten O’Clock in the Morning, Abilene,” “This Green - with respect to Federico Garcia Lorca,” “This Is My Solemn Vow,” “This Little Arm,” “This Much Sun,” “This Restaurant Where I Work,” “This Solid Cat,” “This Tree,” “Those Precious Early Years,” “Thread,” “Three Mule Deer, Dusk, Organ Mountains,” “Through the Kitchen Window, Chiapas,” “Thunder,” “The Time,” “Time to go to bed but once again I pull out a piece of white paper.”

7 Poems, To-Two. “To a field,” “To Free that Ache,” “To Love You,” “To Marc who said, “Constantly in the Company,” “To My Texas Handbook,” “To One Now Grown,” “To Saint Christopher and Dave from Sunday Roller,” “To the People Who Keep Showing Up,” “To the Person Who Sent Me My First Piece of Hate Mail (Which Arrived on Valentine’s Day) or Thanks A Lot,” “To the


Poems, Y. “Yellow Glove,” “Yes,” “You,” “You Are a Quiet Song,” “You Are Not at Home,” “You Can’t Fool Me,” “You sit in my yard like the Sphinx of ancient Egypt,” “Your Name,” “Your Weight, at Birth,” “You're So Nice I Will Kiss You On the Bones,” “You’re welcome!.”


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is a Mix of Fact & Fiction," "Being Back with the Family is Quite Wonderful but Terribly Exhausting," "Member of the Tribe," "Fifty Years Since I Prayed or Thought in Arabic."


6 Poems, Groupings, Poet Profile, "In Her Own Words," "Say These Things," "Blue Bucket."


8 Poems, fragments.

9 Poems, notes.

Box Folder


10 Poems, Oversized. “One of a Kind,” 1 oversized page, handwritten with corrections and annotations.


Box Folder
54 2 Poems, Oversized. "Eight Years Ago."

3 Poems, Oversized. "An incredibly sad-feeling time."


Different Ways to Pray, 1980.

Box Folder
10 10 "Naomi's copy," circa 1977. Many poems include duplicates, multiple drafts, corrections, and notations of submission or publication.


Box Folder

12 Manuscript, undated.

13 Manuscript, 1986.


Twenty Other Worlds, unpublished.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 10 | 15 | Corrected draft, circa 1989.  
| 11 | 1 | Manuscripts, circa 1991. Printout draft of an introduction and most poems in final collection, with minor corrections; includes "With the Children at the River," one handwritten page with corrections. Printout drafts, with page numbers and minor corrections.  
  *Travel Alarm*, 1993. |
| 11 | 2 | Proofs, 1991. Includes proof sent from Judith with correspondence; major corrections and annotations by Judith and Nye. |
| 11 | 3 | Manuscript with writer and editor corrections and annotations.  
  Photocopies, Cover and table of contents, notations on poem "One Boy Told Me."  
  Illustrations, 1996-1997 and undated. 3 color printouts, 10 photographic slides, examples from magazines.  
  See also Editor's Correspondence, 2001-2002 for correspondence with Virginia Duncan, including drafts of introduction. |
| 11 | 10 | Notes, circa 2000.  
  Clean draft, undated.  
  Corrected draft, 2001. Includes faxes with editor Virginia Duncan and some notes.  
  Correspondence, 2001.  

<table>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes, undated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Draft, undated. 80 pages.</td>
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**Transfer**, 2011.

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<td>Late draft, 2011.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes and drafts, undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Draft, undated. With annotations by Nye.</td>
</tr>
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<table>
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<td>Introduction drafts, poems.</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Draft, undated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Research, undated.</td>
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</table>

**What Have You Lost?**, 1998.

<table>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poems, with annotations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Cover art ideas and notes.</td>
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</table>


Note that correspondence and poems related to *The Space Between Our Footsteps*, 1998, can be found in Series III: Correspondence, under various correspondents.
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
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</table>

Submissions, poems, and correspondence, 1985.


Includes contributor list and multiple drafts removed from Editor's Correspondence.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes and ideas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>List of contributors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tentative Table of Contents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Draft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Draft, in sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Proof, flap, and contributor's notes.</td>
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*Salting the Ocean: 100 Poems by Young Poets*, 2000.

<table>
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<td>Art, 25 prints and color photocopies by Ashley Bryan.</td>
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*Is This Forever, Or What?, 2004.*

<table>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contributors. Poems and bios with Nye annotations.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Correspondence, 2008-2009.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence and poems by Abu Zafar Obaidullah, Farhad Mazhar, Humayun Azad, Humayun Kabir, Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Rafiq Azad, Al Mahmud. Preface and contributor's notes.</td>
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Monographs-Prose, 1994-2016 and undated.

Cookbook, unpublished.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>Research, undated.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early drafts. Also titled &quot;Connected&quot; and &quot;No War, Please.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Drafts.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

13  Layout draft.

Box Folder
54 4  Oversized, Artwork by Yu Cha Pak, 6 color photocopies.


Box Folder
14 14  Correspondence with editors. 1994-1996
15  Proof, 273 pages.
16  Blurb and promotion, 1996.

Habibi, 1997.

Box Folder
14 17  Early notes and fragments. Annotations by Nye and Duncan.
18  Early draft.
19  Early draft, fragments with notes. Heavily annotated by Duncan.

Box Folder
15 1  Complete draft, with notes by Nye and Duncan.
2  "Third send-in" complete draft. Heavily annotated, with correspondence from Virginia.
3  Complete draft. Heavily annotated.
5  Late draft, Nov. 20, 1996. Heavily annotated.

Box Folder
16 1  Late draft, clean.
3  Excerpt/review, cover proofs.


Box Folder
49 12  Proofs, with cover and illustrations. (Oversized)


Box Folder
16 4  Notes and annotated draft.
5  Draft. With annotations by Nye and Duncan.

Box Folder
49 13  Illustrations. (Oversized)
Going,
Going,
2005.
Notes and research.

Draft and fragments.


"Draft 2,"

"Take 6," with notes. Includes correspondence to Duncan from Nye, and annotations by Duncan.

Post-publication.


Box       Folder
16 12          Proof, cover, and review


Box       Folder
17 1          Notes

2          Draft, 141 pages.

3          Proof, 2011.


Box       Folder
17 4          Notes, research, circa 2008.

5          Notes, correspondence from Duncan, 2013 and undated.

6          "Happy House," undated.

7          Early drafts, circa 2008. Some include notes from Virginia Duncan.

8          Draft. With corrections and annotations by Duncan and Nye.

9          Draft. With corrections and annotations by Duncan and Nye.

10         Draft. With corrections and annotations by Duncan and Nye.

11         Proof, June 16, 2014.

Editor Correspondence, 1989-2014.

Box       Folder
18 1          Editor Correspondence, November, 1989 - December, 1991. Includes draft of *Connected.*

2          Editor Correspondence, 1992. Includes submissions to and comments on *The Tree Is Older Than You Are.*

3          Editor Correspondence, 1993. Includes draft of *Connected* and *Benito's Dream Bottle.*

4          Editor Correspondence, 1994. Includes draft and notes on contributors for *The Tree is Older than You Are* "Mexico Book."

5          Editor Correspondence, January - June 1995.

6          Editor Correspondence, July - August 1995.
Editor Correspondence, September - December 1995. Includes *This Tree is Older than you Are* (contributors), *I Feel a Little Jumpy*.

Editor Correspondence, January - May, 1996. Includes partial draft and proof of *I Feel a Little Jumpy*, and Duncan's response to *Habibi*.

Editor Correspondence, June - December 1996. Includes copyediting and draft of *Habibi* chapter.

Editor Correspondence, January - June 1997. Includes poems and title for *Fuel*, and poems for *Come with Me*.

Editor Correspondence, July - December 1997. Includes correspondence related to *The Space Between Our Footsteps*.

Editor Correspondence, January - April, 1998. Includes images and draft passages for *What Have You Lost?*. Includes letter from Ashley Bryan.

Editor Correspondence, May 1998. Includes *Salting the Ocean*, interfiled with *What Have You Lost?*. Includes floppy disk.

Editor Correspondence, July 1998. Includes *Salting the Ocean* title, and *What Have you Lost?* proof with annotations.

Editor Correspondence, August - December, 1998. Includes correspondence related to *Salting the Ocean* and *What Have you Lost?*.

Editor Correspondence, 1999. Includes contributor response to *The Space Between Our Footsteps*, *Salting the Ocean* introduction.

Editor Correspondence, 2000. Includes *Salting the Ocean* introduction and reviews, *The Space Between Our Footsteps* reviews in Arabic.

Editor Correspondence, 2001. Includes notes from Duncan on *Going, Going*, draft of "To Any Would-Be Terrorists," and notes from Duncan on *Varieties of Gazelle*.

Editor Correspondence, 2002.

Editor Correspondence, March 2010 - March 2017. Includes notes from Duncan on *19 Varieties of Gazelle*.

Short Stories, circa 1970s - circa 2010s.


Short Stories, "Maestro"

Short Stories, "Maintenance"

Short Stories, Marfa - Mint. "Marfa Lights," "May We Please See the Arab?," "Mint Snowball."

Short Stories, "The Miracle of Typing"


Short Stories, "My Life with Medicine"

Short Stories, New - Orange. "New Man," "Nobody Thinks of Dying in the Middle of the Day," "OK," "On the Front Steps of the Hall Where W.S. Merwin is Reading," "One," "One Moment on Top of the Earth," "One Village," "The Orange, the Fig, the Whisper of Grapes."

Short Stories, "Pablo Tamayo."


Short Stories, "Shoofly Pie."

Short Stories, "The Shopper," "Stars."

Short Stories, "Thank You in Arabic."


Essays, "Adolph's Store & Cafe."

gobble that dinner," "Blood," "Bread," "Breaking the Sound Barrier," "Bridging the Waters."

Box Folder


3 Essays, "Max's Cafe."


5 Essays, "Return Address, Betty J. Stagg."


7 Essays, Talk - Traveling. "Talk, Talk, Talk," This is Not Who We Are," "To Any Would-Be Terrorists," "To my Dear Writing Friends," "Traveling.

8 Essays, Vacant - Your. "Vacant Lots," "War Has No Imagination," "We All Walk on Bones," "What Do You Think?" "Why is the Busdriver Mean?" "Wind in a Bucket: Poetry and Energy in Young Lives," "Wolves," "Your Voice is a Ticket!"


Box Folder
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<td>49</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

**Essays (Oversized).** "A Collection of Poets," "Billboards, sign of times," "In Such Times, Ties Must Bind."

**Reviews, 1984-1999 and undated.**

**Excerpts and quotes, 2005-2014 and undated.**

**Prose notes and fragments.**

**Prose fragment, Oversized, 6 handwritten pages.** "When I was in high school."


**“A No-Poem for Here and Now” and Untitled Poem, 1972, The Folder.**

**“Nostalgia of an 8th Semester Tiger," and others, 1974, The Mirage.** (Trinity University Yearbook)

**“Walking Blanco Road at Midnight," Fall 1975/Spring 1976, Hawaii Review.**

**“You Are Not at Home," 1976, Texas Portfolio.**

"now is like a cup of hot tea," 1976" *POWER: Personal Reflections by Youth for Youth.*


**“Basketball with The Swami” and “My Grandmother Has Tattooed Feet," 1977, Yellow Brick Road.**

**“Harvey Street, St. Louis” and “On This Side of The World," 1977, Glassworks.**


**“Worry” and “Music," Spring 1977, International Poetry Review.**


**“The Girl in the Swimming Pool," “In This House,” and “The Music Box,” Autumn, 1979, Shadowgraphs.**

**“I Am Traveling," July 1980, Cellar Door.**

**“Packing Lunches for The World," Winter 1980 Permafrost.**

**“My Father and The Fig Tree” and “Grandfather’s Heaven," 1982, Wrapping the Grapeleaves.**
<table>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>“At La Palmita, Near the Border” and “From Here to There,” 1982, <em>River Sedge</em>.</td>
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<td><em>Event</em>, September 1984, Quote by Naomi Nye.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>“David Crockett’s Other Life,” Summer 1990, <em>Southwest Review</em>.</td>
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25
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11

12
“Every Cat Had a Story,” March 1996, Instructor.

13
United States Board on books for young People, Inc, Spring 1996.

14

15

16

Box
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26
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10

11
Guest editor, Voices, Spring 2000.

12

13

14

15

16
“This Crutch That I Love,” 2002, Writers on America.

17

18

19
"It is Not a Game It Was Never a Game," May/June 2003, Speakeasy.

20

21

22

Box
Folder
27
1
“Open Arms,” Fall 2004 Divide.

2


“Are We Friends?” Dec. 15, 2009, *Voices de la Luna.*


“And Now,” April 15, 2013, *Voices de la Luna.*


“Landscapes We Learn to Love,” “Business,” and “Arabs in Finland,” Jan-Feb 2014, World Literature Today.


“Stars Over Big Bend,” May, 2015, Texas Monthly.

“Du weißt, wer du bist” (You know who you are) and “Adieu” (Goodbye), Sept 2015, Akzente.

“Gate A-4,” June, 2016, St. Louis County Attorney’s Office Annual Report.


Box Folder 51 1 Organica, Magazine of Arts and Activism, Tampa, FLA, 2000-2007, incomplete. Regular poetry column by Nye.


Box Folder 30 1 Arabic Coffee, 1986.
Travel Alarm, 1993.
Carrying Wishes, 1993.


Box Folder 52 1 Broadsides, Oversized. “Fold,” "his life," “It Is Not a Game It Was Never a Game,” "Red Brocade," "Big Head, Big Face."

Box Folder 54 7 Broadsides, Oversized. “Broadsheet #1,” "…Books and Stationery, Some Still Tied in Bundles, Littered the Street," "A Renga by the Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets."


Box Folder 30 9 Book Covers and art, undated.

Box Folder 30 10 Talks, 1993-2013.
11 Talks, Undated.
12 Talks, Notes and fragments, undated.

Box Folder 52 2 Talks, Oversized. Notes and fragments.

Box Folder 31 1 The Language of Life with Bill Moyers, 1995.
4 Betty Kray, Includes research.
5 Introductions for others.
7 9 optical discs, 1991-2014 and undated.
8 "Corpus Christi, Naomi Shihab," 1 open reel audio tape.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Correspondence, 1960 - circa 2010s.</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, Bonazzi, Roberto (Bob), 1975-2005, undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, Bryan, Ashley, 1995-2013, undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Busailah, Reja-e, 1991.</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Dr 9</td>
<td>Correspondence, Carol Collins and family, Feb. 3, 1997.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, Hirsch, Edward, 1989-2000. Personal correspondence that spans Hirsch’s career at both University of Houston and Grinnell College. Includes letters from Nye to Hirsch and photographs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Kooser, Ted, 2010-2016 and undated.


Correspondence, Mathis, Matthew. Includes 2 optical disks.

Correspondence, Maverick, Maury, Jr., 1990-2003. Personal correspondence, nearly all contains articles written by Maverick (including a bio of Nye); also his obituary, correspondence from Nye, and Maverick correspondence to others apparently shared with Nye.

Correspondence, McCann, Michael W., 1998.

Correspondence, McNamara, William (Spiritual Life Institute), 1983-2010.

Correspondence, Merwin, Paula, 1989-2015 and undated.

Correspondence, Merwin, William (W.S.), 1989-2002 and undated.


<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Stafford, Kit, 1995-2005.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>First name only, A-C.</td>
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<td>First name only, D-J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>First name only, K-N.</td>
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<td>First name only, P-W.</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>Correspondence, Signed cards from classes and workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Correspondence, unnamed.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Notes, addresses, and business cards, undated.

Nye and Shihab Family Correspondence, 1960-2013.

The bulk of the series is composed of correspondence between Naomi Shihab Nye and her parents, Aziz and Miriam Shihab. Also contains correspondence from Nye’s husband, Michael Nye, and their son, Madison Cloudfeather Nye. Correspondents also include Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Allwardt (Miriam Nye’s parents), Nina and Paul Nye (Michael Nye’s parents), Ellen R. Fehr, a cousin, and Nye’s brother Adlai and his wife Janis.

Box Folder
7 Ellen R. Fehr, 1995.
8 Janis Shihab, 1989.
11-12 Miriam Nye, 1977-2014 and undated.
13 Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Allwardt, 1960-1966 and undated. Miriam’s letters chronicle a road trip across Colorado in 1965 and impressions of living in Palestine in the summer of 1966. Naomi’s letters recount daily life while living in Lee’s Summit, Missouri.
16 Nina and Paul Nye, 1990 and undated. Correspondence contains multiple enclosures including photographs (one unidentified and one of Naomi Nye in 1979), religious meditations, and an undated prayer card.

Instruction, circa 1970s - circa 2010s.


Box Folder
38 1 Fever or Forgotten Wings, 1975. Publication of Texas Commission on the Arts & Humanities. Includes student poems and short notes and photo of Nye.
2 "Deep Dish Poetry Pie," circa Fall 1975.
Student Publications, 1976 - 1979. "sometimes i feel like the whole world's a black tuxedo and i'm a pair of brown shoes," "Today Feels Like Frog Legs," "Earth Pizza," "Words from Woodridge," "around the world in an hour and a half."


Student Publications, 1983. "Living is Number One: Songs by Children for Children."


Student Publications, Mimeographs and floppy disk. 1979 and undated.

Box Folder

Box Folder
39 1 Student Publications, Edited by Others, 2008-2011 and undated.


Box Folder
39 2 "(13) Ways to Look"
3 Poems and lessons.
4 "Testimonials," circa 1975-1981. Letters from students to Nye, most include poems or drawings.
5 Letters to Nye, circa 1994-2016. Include poems or drawings.
6 Letters from ACS, circa 2010. Include poems or drawings.
7 KAUST School, circa 2010. Include poems or drawings. King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.

Box Folder
52 4 Student Poem (Oversized), "Inside Out."

Instruction for Children

Box Folder
39 8 "Rutabaga-Roo Teacher Packet"
9 "Story Poems-Narrations." Student exercises and ideas.
10 "Comparisons." Student exercises and ideas.
11 "Science as Springboard." Student exercises and ideas.

Lessons on Nye works.

Student art - poetry projects on Habibi.


Writers' Anthology, Haystack Program in the Arts, 1988.

Lesson Plans.

American Cultural Center Lahore, 1983.


Appearances and Awards, 1974-2017 and undated.


Appearances, Posters - 2014 – April 2015.


Appearances, Posters, Undated.


Appearances, Posters, 1995-2015 and undated.

Nametags

Awards, 1974-2917 and undated.
The bulk of the articles are from the *San Antonio Express-News* and the *Dallas Morning-News*. Also included are articles tracing Nye's early career as traveling poet for schools in Texas, local coverage from a 1984 trip to South America, and profiles from the towns where she led workshops and conferences. Some articles are annotated by Nye and her father, Aziz Shihab.
Clippings, undated.

Reviews, Oversized, 1982-2006.
Clippings, Oversized, undated.

Clippings, Oversized, Reviews, 1982-2015.

Writings on Nye, unpublished.


Music


“Poems by Naomi Shihab Nye, music by Laszlo Slomovits,” 2010. 2 audio CDs, correspondence from Slomovits.


Theater


Artist Files, 1985-2011 and undated.
Box   Folder  
46   3       Artist Files, Roberto Bonazzi

Box   Folder  
52   7       Artist Files, Ashley Bryan, Oversized clippings.

Box   Folder  
46   4       Artist Files, Sandra Cisneros
5       Artist Files, Mahmoud Darwish
6       Artist Files, Albert Huffstickler. Poems and chapbooks inscribed to Nye.

Box   Folder  
54   12      Artist Files, Maury Maverick, oversized clippings, 1990-1995.

Box   Folder  
46   7       Artist Files, Judith McPheron
8       Artist Files, W. S. Merwin
10      Artist Files, Peace Pilgrim
11      Artist Files, Alastair Reid

Box   Folder  
47   1       Artist Files, John Phillip Santos, circa 1994-1998. Drafts, published writings, interview, DVD.

       Artist Files, Aziz Shihab, 1993-2011 and undated.

Box   Folder  

Box   Folder  
2   8       Oversized clippings.

Box   Folder  
47   6       Artist Files, Rudolph Staffel
7       Artist Files, William Stafford
8       Artist Files, Memorials.

       Collected and Received Materials, 1981-2014 and undated.

Box   Folder  
48   1       Collected and Received Materials, Chapbooks
2       Collected and Received Materials, Broadsides

Box   Folder  
52   9       Collected and Received Materials, Oversized Broadsides, "I Believe," Gerals Stern.

Box   Folder  
48   3       Collected and Received Materials, Writings on or for Nye.
Collected and Received Materials, Collected and received poetry.

Collected and received prose.

Collected and Received Materials, Audio - Video. Optical disk and cassette tape.

Collected and Received Materials, Art.

- Box Folder

- Box Folder

- Box Folder
  - 48 8-9: Collected and Received Materials, Publications.
  - 10: Collected and Received Materials, Clippings.

- Box Folder
  - 52 11-12: Collected and Received Materials, Clippings, Oversized, 1982-2014.
  - 13: Collected and Received Materials, Printed materials, Oversized.

- Box Folder
  - 55 1-3: Collected and Received Materials, Clippings, Oversized, 1989-2014.
  - 4: Collected and Received Materials, Clippings, Oversized, Princess Diana, 1997.
  - 5: Collected and Received Materials, Clippings, Oversized, Selena, Writers, Recipes, 1995-2002.
  - 7: Collected and Received Materials, Clippings, Oversized, President Barack Obama, 2008.