

National Poetry Month: Resources for Teachers and Staff

April is National Poetry Month! April 2021 is the 25th annual celebration of the art, expressiveness, and joy of poetry.

Springhurst Library Media Specialist Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert to create this resource list to help your classes explore and celebrate poetry throughout the month.

Booklist

Following is a list of published books, both poetry collections and novels in verse. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available.

This list is by no means exhaustive. Please check out the catalog or stop by the library to explore our poetry sections.

Elementary School Poetry Collections

- *In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers* by Javaka Steptoe ● ●
- *Love to Langston* by Tony Medina ● ●
- *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship* by Charles Waters & Irene Latham ● ●
- *Fold Me a Poem* by Kristine George ● ●
- *I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage* by Margarita Engle ● ●
- *Jazz* by Walter Dean Myers ● ●
- *Runny Babbit* by Shel Silverstein ● ●
- *When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons* by Julie Fogliano ● ●
- *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice* by Elizabeth Acevedo, Mahogany L. Browne, & Olivia Gatwood ● ●
- *Bookspeak! Poems about Books* by Laura Purdie Salas ● ●
- *Hey Black Child* by Useni Eugene Perkins ● ●
- *Hi, Kool!: A Year of Seasons* by Jon J. Muth ● ●
- *Incredible Inventions* by Lee Bennett Hopkins ● ●
- *Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons* by Laura Purdie Salas ● ●
- *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets* by Chris Colderley, Kwame Alexander, & Marjory Heath Wentworth ● ●

- *Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems* by Paul Janeczko & Melissa Sweet ● ●
- *The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog and Other How-To Poems* by Paul Janeczko & Richard Jones ● ●
- *Bravo!: Poems About Amazing Hispanics* by Margarita Engle & Rafael López ● ●
- *A Hatful of Dragons* by Vikram Madran ●
- *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* by Jane O'Connor ● ●
- *The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop* by Frank Morrison ● ●
- *Poetrees* by Douglas Florian ●
- *Tan to Tamarind* by Malathi Michelle Iyengar ●
- *Bigfoot is Missing!* by Patrick J. Lewis & Kenn Nesbitt ●
- *Poetree* by Shauna LaVoy Reynolds ●
- *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* by Maya Angelou (illus. by Jean-Michel Basquiat) ● ●
- *Imagine* by Juan Felipe Herrera ● ●
- *Science Verse* by Jon Scieszka ● ●
- *Voice of Freedom: Fanny Lou Hamer, the Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford ●
- *The Piñata that the Farm Maiden Hung* by Samantha R. Vamos ●
- *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat* by Nikki Giovanni ● ●
- *Trailblazer: Poems of Exploration* by Bobbi Katz ●

Middle School Poetry Collections

- *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* Ed. by Paul Fleischman ● ●
- *Poetry Speaks--Who I Am* Ed. by Elise Paschen ● ●
- *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance* by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry ● ●
- *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy* by Tony Medina ●
- *The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle ● ●
- *Ego-Tripping and Other Poems for Young People* by Nikki Giovanni ● ●
- *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* by Wade Hudson & Cheryl Willis Hudson ●
- *A Maze Me: Poems for Girls* by Naomi Shihab Nye ●
- *Yes! We are Latinos* by Alma Flor Ada & F. Isabel Campoy ●
- *Poetry for Young People* [series featuring classic poets] by various poets ● ●

Middle Grade Novels in Verse

- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson ● ●
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech ● ●
- *Hate That Cat* by Sharon Creech ● ●
- *Garvey's Choice* by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse ● ●

- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Varga ● ●
- *Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton ● ●
- *Breakout* by Kate Messner ● ●
- *House Arrest* by K.A. Holt ● ●
- *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney ● ●
- *Salt* by Helen Frost ● ●
- *The Canyon's Edge* by Dusti Bowling ● ●
- *Dust of Eden* by Mariko Nagai ●
- *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan ● ●
- *Alone* by Megan E. Freeman ●
- *Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson ● ●
- *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson ● ●
- *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps ●
- *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca ●
- *Heartbeat* by Sharon Creech ●
- *The Wild Book* by Margarita Engle ●
- *Under the Broken Sky* by Mariko Nagai ●
- *The One Thing You'd Save* by Linda Sue Park ●
- *Emmy in the Key of Code* by Aimee Lucido ●
- *The Land of Cranes* by Aida Salazar ●
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhá Lai ● ●
- *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science* by Jeannine Atkins ● ●
- *Blue Birds* by Caroline Starr Rose ●
- *Kent State* by Deborah Wiles ● ●
- *The Poet Slave of Cuba* by Margarita Engle ● ●
- *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood ● ●
- *Red Butterfly* by A.L. Sonnichsen ● ●

Young Adult Poetry Collections

- *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur ● ●
- *Honeybee* by Naomi Shihab Nye ● ●
- *A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson ● ●
- *My Seneca Village* by Marilyn Nelson ●
- *Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability* by Sheila Black & Jennifer Barrett ●
- *The Princess Saves Herself In This One* by Amanda Lovelace ●
- *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman ●
- *The Witch Doesn't Burn in This One* by Amanda Lovelace ●
- *For Every One* by Jason Reynolds ● ●

Young Adult Novels in Verse

- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●

- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds ● ●
- *Audacity* by Melanie Chowder ● ●
- *White Rose* by Kip Wilson ● ●
- *A Time to Dance* by Padma Venkatrama ● ●
- *Shout: A Poetry Memoir* by Laurie Halse Anderson ● ●
- *Enchanted Air: A Cold War Memoir* by Margarita Engle ● ●
- *Swing* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Between the Lines* by Nikki Grimes ●
- *Every Body Looking* by Candace Iloh ● ●
- *The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta ●
- *The Realm of Possibility* by David Levithan ●
- *Two Girls Staring at the Ceiling* by Lucy Frank ●
- *The Truth Project* by Dante Medema ●
- *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi & Yusuf Salaam ● ●
- *Ronit & Jamil* by Pamela L. Laskin ●
- *When You Know What I Know* by Sonja Salter ●
- *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds ● ●

Websites

Poets.org

<https://poets.org/>

This site features poems, of course, but also many creative ideas on how to celebrate poetry in the classroom and beyond. Included are resources for Poem in Your Pocket Day, a day to spread the love of poetry by handing out poems (virtually or in person). You can also sign up to get a poem sent to your email every day!

The Poetry Foundation

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org>

Read and listen to poetry on this site by the publisher of *Poetry* magazine. Also features biographies of poets, a glossary of terms, poem guides, and ideas for teaching with poetry.

Poetry Out Loud

<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/>

This organization is dedicated to live poetry readings and organizes poetry recitation contests throughout the United States. In addition to poems and biographies of poets, this resource provides videos of poetry readings, as well as tips for delivering poetry effectively.

Poetry Archive & Children's Poetry Archive

<https://poetryarchive.org/>

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/>

The Poetry Archive records and preserves recordings of poets reading (and sometimes discussing) their own work.