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, Koo!: 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 Thanhha 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 Shibab 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/](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](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.