

The Youth Services Division of the Fresno County Public Library is committed to sharing essential pieces of literary news and highlighting new or exciting informational resources to complement and expand on the work of educators in our community.

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POETRY

This pathfinder was designed as a resource for teachers, librarians, and other educators for professional use and to share with students in grades K-12 for poetry enrichment.

DATABASES

One of the key factors to successful database information retrieval is utilizing each database's search terms and subject/category headings. We have provided such helpful search information below, but as a reminder, it will save you time to check the "search tips" page for any database you utilize.

- [Literary Reference Center](#) – scroll down to "literature" and click for in-house or at-home use (library card needed)
 - Recommended Grade Level: 9th-12th
 - The Literary Reference Center contains information on "thousands of authors across literary disciplines and timeframes." You will find such documents as: biographies; full-text classics; images; interviews; literary criticism; periodicals; poems; plot summaries; reference books; and short stories.
 - Search Tips: Full Boolean search (and, not, or) capability, and you can search by keyword, title, author, etc. To narrow to poetry, you can start on the basic search and enter "Whitman, walt and leaves of grass" and then click on the "poems" tab. Or you can start on the advanced search and click "poetry" at the start of your search. Finally, you can also browse indexes, publications, and cited references in the advanced search.
 - Special Note: There is a wonderful literary-historical timeline from antiquity to present, an online Encyclopedia of Literature, and citation tips.
- [ValleyCat](#) – online catalog for Fresno County Public Library and the San Joaquin Valley Library System
 - We've compiled our best subject search terms directly linked to our catalog and the print resources you need for poetry:
 - Poetry
 - [Ballads](#)
 - [Children's poetry](#)
 - [Children's poetry, American](#)
 - [Children's poetry, American -- Afro-American authors](#)
 - [Children's poetry, American -- Hispanic American authors](#)
 - [Children's poetry, Spanish](#)
 - [Counting-out rhymes](#)
 - [Epigrams](#)
 - [Haiku](#)
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 - [Love poetry](#)
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 - [Nursery rhymes](#)
 - [Parodies](#)
 - [Poetry, American -- 20th century](#)
 - [Sound -- Poetry \(Spoken word\)](#)
 - [Young adult poetry](#)
 - [War poetry](#)



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CDs

- [National Poetry Recitation Contest: Performing Poetry, an Audio Guide](#) by Dana Gioia
 - Recommended Grade Level: 7th-12th
 - Description: Poems are read by stars like Alyssa Milano, Anthony Hopkins, James Earl Jones, etc., and the well-known poems range from Shakespeare to Dickinson to Yeats.
- [The Spoken Word Project](#) by Angela Williamston
 - Recommended Grade Level: 9th-12th
 - Description: She "weave[s] poetry, music and political statements with ease. Her literary and lyrical style is a mixture between Me'shell Ndegeocello, Gil Scott Heron, Sade and Mos Def." <http://www.poetonwatch.com/>

DVDs

- [Def Poetry, Seasons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5](#) by Russell Simmons
 - Recommended Grade Level: 9th-12th
 - Description: Taped live at the Supper Club in New York, Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry is hosted by popular rap artist Mos Def, and spotlights original material performed by contemporary urban poets and well-known music/comedy artists.
- [The Poetry Lounge: Spoken Word and the Art of Self-Expression](#) by Thea Monyee
 - Recommended Grade Level: 7th-12th
 - Description: Learn the fundamentals of writing and performing 'spoken word' poetry by watching slam champions as they perform their work, share their inspiration, and describe writing techniques for this format.
 - Special note: Lesson plan, poetry lounge history, and extended interview with poets included.

PRINT RESOURCES

Have you searched our catalog, [ValleyCat](#), but still want to find out more? Here are some relevant Dewey Decimal subject numbers for you to peruse. If you ever need help, don't forget our librarians are always happy to further assist you.

- American poetry – 811
- English poetry – 821
- Classical Greek dramatic poetry & drama – 882
- Classical Greek epic poetry & fiction – 883
- Classical Greek lyric poetry – 884
- Classical Greek poetry – 881
- French poetry – 841
- German poetry – 831
- Italian poetry – 851
- Japanese poetry, Haiku – 890
- Latin epic poetry & fiction – 873
- Latin lyric poetry – 874
- Latin poetry – 871
- Latin poetry & drama – 872
- Spanish poetry – 860



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Looking for some recommendations? We have so many wonderful poetry books, but here is a brief sampling of our resources!

CHILDREN'S TITLES (Pre-school-6th grade)

Curtis, Edward S. [EARTH ALWAYS ENDURES: NATIVE AMERICAN POEMS](#)

"My Words are Tied in One: My Words are tied in one/ With the great mountains,/ With the great rocks,/ With the great trees./In one with my body/And my heart." Curtis supplies the reader with authentic photographs, and the poems are derived from Arapaho, Cheyenne, Chinook, Chippewa, Cree, Navajo, Pawnee & more Native American Tribes.

Dahl, Roald. [VILE VERSES](#)

"Boggis and Bunce and Bean: Boggis and Bunce and Bean/One fat, one short, one lean./These horrible crooks/So different in looks/ Were nonetheless equally mean." Dahl serves up deliciously gross, bizarre, and humorous poems!

Prelutsky, Jack. [20TH CENTURY CHILDREN'S POETRY TREASURY](#)

"Me: My nose is blue,/My teeth are green,/My face is like a soup tureen./I look just like a lima bean./I'm very, very lovely." Prelutsky has selected poems from poets like Shel Silverstein and also include poems that teach about seasons, occupations, animals, manners, etc. in humorous rhyme.

Smith, Charles R. [SHORT TAKES: FAST-BREAK BASKETBALL POETRY](#)

"Afterburner: Like the sound/of st-st-staccato drums/my dr-dr-dribble/hums/right past you." Smith gives the reader a poetic insight into what it feels like playing basketball!

Whipple, Laura. [CELEBRATING AMERICA: A COLLECTION OF POEMS AND IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT](#)

From "Paul Revere's Ride" to a jump rope rhyme entitled, "Brooklyn Bridge," this book takes you across America from the 1863 past to the present with relevant artwork and photographs.

Yolen, Jane. [COUNT ME A RHYME: ANIMAL POEMS BY THE NUMBERS](#)

"Four Slow Snails: A slow snails,/One, two/three, four,/As up the leaning grass/They snore." Yolen provides simple descriptive poetry that counts from 1-10 simultaneously and ends with the concept of "many."

YOUNG ADULT TITLES (6th-12th grade)

Adoff, Arnold. [I AM THE DARKER BROTHER: AN ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN POEMS BY AFRICAN AMERICANS](#)

A collection of poems featuring themes of race or racial problems by well-known African-American poets, including Langston Hughes, Richard Wright, and Maya Angelou.

Carlson, Lori. [COOL SALSA: BILINGUAL POEMS ON GROWING UP LATINO IN THE UNITED STATES](#)

This collection celebrates the tones, rhythms, sounds, and experiences of growing up Latino in America. Includes works by poets such as Sandra Cisneros, Martin Espada, Gary Soto, Ed Vega, and others.

Franco, Betsy. [YOU HEAR ME? POEMS AND WRITING BY TEENAGE BOYS](#)

All the poems in this volume are written by teenage boys, and they speak to every kind of issue: drugs, sex and sexuality, rejection, conformity, bullying, love, anger and more. As a collection, they weave together to demonstrate the challenge of becoming an adult.

Rosenberg, Liz. [EARTH-SHATTERING POEMS, LIGHT GATHERING POEMS](#)

Intense and serious, this collection of poetry features more than 40 poets, including John Keats, Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Path and Pablo Neruda.

Shakur, Tupac. [THE ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE](#)

Passionate, original poems from the late rapper Tupac Shakur, written before he became famous, featuring reprints of poems in his own handwriting.

Watson, Esther. [THE PAIN TREE & OTHER TEENAGE ANGST-RIDDEN POETRY](#)

A collection of original poems that is written by teens about real experiences and feelings, such as love, despair, honesty and trust. Poets range in age from 13-18; poems are accompanied by colorful illustrations.



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- **THE ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS** - <http://poets.org/>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 9th-12th
 - A more sophisticated layout for older students who can listen to a poem in the listening booth, read the poems of their favorite poets, and check out the events calendar to learn about poetry happenings across the nation.
- **CRAYOLA: NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2008** - http://www.crayola.com/calendar/detail.cfm?event_id=145&year=2008
 - Recommended Grade Level: K-3
 - This is a great site for lesson plans, coloring & activities, and brief poet biographies.
- **FAMILY EDUCATION: NATIONAL POETRY MONTH** - <http://fun.familyeducation.com/poetry-month/poetry/32827.html>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 3rd-6th
 - There are "fill in the verse" printables, "guess the poet" quizzes, and "poetry writing for all ages!"
- **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: POETRY** - <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 9th-12th
 - There is Information on the Poet Laureates, news, online events and advice on writing poems.
 - Special Note: There is also a special spin-off page entitled, "Poetry 180: A Poem a Day for American High Schools."
- **MAGNETIC POETRY** - <http://www.magneticpoetry.com/play.html>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 7th-12th
 - This is a fun site, where students can build their vocabulary at the same time they create their own online magnetic poetry. Students can also read what others have created.
- **THE POETRY ARCHIVE** - <http://www.poetryarchive.org/>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 6th-12th
 - There are thousands of poems that you can search by author, form, theme, and title. You can also listen to authors reading their poetry.
 - Special Note: Helpful sections geared for teachers, librarians, and students.
- **POETRY TEACHERS** - <http://www.poetryteachers.com/>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 1st-4th
 - This is a great resource to present children with poetry theatre, where they "perform plays with...funny and short poems." There are also lesson plan ideas, and links to humorous poems.
- **TEEN INK: POETRY** - <http://teenink.com/Poetry/>
 - Recommended Grade Level: 8th-12th
 - Students can read what other poets are writing across the country, and they can also learn how to submit their own poetry.
 - Special Note: The submission guidelines form does ask for the name of their school and their English teacher.

Live Homework Help (Tutor.com)

is now accessible at all branch computers as well as to users at home. Students in grades 4 - 12 can get free online tutoring in Math, Science, English, and Social Studies, available every day from 1:00 to 10:00 pm.



Spanish language tutors are also available in Math and Science related subjects from 1:00 to 7:00 pm, Sunday through Thursday.

If you have any requests, questions, comments, suggestions, or you don't want to receive eTeachers anymore, feel free to email eteachers@fresnolibrary.org



April 26 - CLOVIS REGIONAL

