

Teaching Poetry: LOC Resources with Rebecca Newland

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Library of Congress Resources

Poetry and Literature Landing Page

The Library of Congress website features a wealth of poetry and literature resources for teachers and students. Our main [Poetry and Literature landing page](#) leads to a number of collections and features, such as the [Archive of Recorded Poetry and Poetry](#) and the [Poetry of America series](#), that can be used with middle school and high school students.

The Library is home to the [U.S. Poet Laureate](#) (currently [Joy Harjo](#)), and through our poetry and literature pages you'll find links to [national projects created by former U.S. Poets Laureate](#), such as Billy Collins' [Poetry 180 Project](#) and Joy Harjo's [Living Nations, Living Words](#), that can be incorporated into the classroom, including remote learning environments.



U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo. 2019. Photo by Shawn Miller, Library of Congress.

Resource Guides

The Library makes available a number of [resource guides](#) related to poetry and literature, including a guide on U.S. Poet Laureate [Joy Harjo](#), as well as guides to [past Poets Laureate](#). Since U.S. Poets Laureate are among the most influential and important poets who have been writing since the mid-20th century, learning more about them and their poetry through these guides is a great way for students to learn about America's literary heritage.

Other guides of interest include one on [Jason Reynolds](#), the current [National Ambassador for Young People's Literature](#), who created a [series of writing prompts](#) for students as part of his national project; a [Walt Whitman resource guide](#); and, more broadly, a [new guide for middle and high school students](#) on locating and using primary sources

Blogs

The Library of Congress's poetry and literature blog, [From the Catbird Seat](#), highlights poetry content on the Library's website, discusses past and upcoming poetry events at the Library, and offers ideas to teachers on how to use our poetry resources in the classroom. It's one of the best resources for staying on top of all things poetry-related at the Library. Of particular interest is the blog's monthly ["Teacher's Corner" series](#), in which former Library of Congress Teacher-in-Residence Rebecca Newland offers lesson plans and activity ideas for how teachers can introduce the Library's poetry content to students. Her

[January 2021 post](#) offers ideas for teaching presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman’s poem “The Hill We Climb.”

Also consult the [Teaching with the Library of Congress blog](#) for additional ideas on using Library resources with students. The blog includes many [posts related to poetry and literature](#).

Teacher’s Page

The Library’s [Teacher’s Page](#) is the main portal for teachers looking to introduce Library content into the classroom. Through it you’ll find many [classroom materials](#), including adaptable poetry and literature [lesson plans](#) and [primary source sets](#), including sets on [found poetry](#) and the [Harlem Renaissance](#). You’ll also find a wealth of [professional development opportunities](#) for teachers.



And More....

You’ll find many other resources of interest on our site, including:

- [Today in History](#), which features entries on significant figures or events in American history, including [many entries related to poetry and literature](#).
- Webcasts of [past Library events](#), including programs sponsored by our [Poetry and Literature Center/Literary Initiatives office](#) and hundreds of [National Book Festival \(NBF\) author readings](#) (and don’t miss the [learning guide](#) available on the [2020 NBF website](#)).
- More than [445 digital collections](#) on all subjects and featuring primary source materials such as manuscripts, sound recordings, maps, photographs, videos, sheet music, digitized books, and more. Many of these collections include materials related to poetry and literature, while there are a number that [focus specifically on poetry or literature content](#), such as the [Walt Whitman Papers in the Charles E. Feinberg Collection](#). Check each collection’s About page for a list of “Expert Resources” associated with the collection, including teacher resources, online exhibits, finding aids, and more.
- [Chronicling America](#), a collection of historic U.S. newspaper pages covering 1777-1963, a period in which poetry was regularly published in papers. For tips on locating newspaper content on different subjects, consult the [Recommended Topics pages](#) created by staff in the Library’s Serials Division. Among the Recommended Topics are [Walt Whitman](#) and [World War I Poetry](#).

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian!

Need help navigating the Library’s website, finding Library resources, or understanding how else we can help you? Contact us through our [Ask a Librarian service](#). Submit your question about poetry, teaching resources, or any other topic through our [General Questions form](#) and we’ll route it to the appropriate Library division or specialist for response.

General Inquiries

Ask  a Librarian

Have a question? Need assistance?
Use our [online form](#) to ask a librarian for help.

External Resources

Poetry Foundation: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

The Poetry Foundation is one of the largest poetry organizations in the country. You'll find many [Learning Resources](#) on its website, including a collection of [resources for teaching poetry online](#). You can search its website to locate [poems suitable for children](#) as well as [poems suitable for teens](#).

Academy of American Poets: <https://poets.org/>

Like the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets is one of the largest poetry organizations in the United States. Through its website you can locate a large collection of [Materials for Teachers](#), including [lesson plans](#) and [teacher tips](#), and [Teach This Poem](#), designed for K-12 educators to quickly and easily introduce poetry into the classroom.

Favorite Poem Project: <http://www.favoritepoem.org/>

A video series launched by former Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky that features people reading and discussing their favorite poems. See its collection of [Teacher Resources](#) for ideas how to introduce the series into the classroom and remote learning environments.