

Poetry for Independent Readers

Discover a world of rhythm, rhyme, and free verse with engaging collections and novels for middle readers.

Falling Up by Shel Silverstein

Meet an assortment of delightfully bizarre characters through the poems and drawings of a modern master.

Love That Dog by Sharon Creech

A boy discovers his poetic voice in this charming and poignant novel in verse.

Love to Mama: A Tribute to Mothers edited by Pat Mora

Offering a taste of Latino culture as well as a look at the bonds between mothers and children, this collection brings together the work of 13 poets.

Love to Langston by Tony Medina

Glimpse the life of poet Langston Hughes through 14 tribute poems that focus on different parts of his life.

Night Garden: Poems From the World of Dreams by Janet S. Wong

This whimsical offering brings the bizarre and beautiful world of dreams to life.

Oh, The Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss

Build your students' confidence to face the good and bad parts of life. A favorite gift to mark major milestones.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

Descriptive free-verse drops students into the Depression-era Dust Bowl of Oklahoma.

A Poke in the I: A Collection of Concrete Poems by Paul B. Janeczko

Students will delight in the movement and shapes made by these visual verses.

Relatively Speaking: Poems About Family by Ralph Fletcher

One by one, each poem describes a family member, until the entire family picture is complete.

Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl

There's nothing "happily ever after" about these hilarious retellings of six favorite fairy tales.

Stone Bench in an Empty Park selected by Paul B. Janeczko

Black-and-white photographs with accompanying haikus showcase the natural beauty of a city's people and places.

Wild Wings: Poems for Young People by Jane Yolen

This ode to feathered friends features captivating photographs and moving verse.

A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for Innocent and Experienced

Travelers by Nancy Willard

Meet the motley crew of human and animal guests in this Newbery Award-winning picture book for older readers.