Welcome to our new interactive Poetry in the Classroom Calendar, designed to inspire ideas for bringing poetry into your classroom throughout the 2020–2021 academic year. Click the linked icons and text to discover related resources.

For more than five decades, we've been dedicated to serving K–12 teachers through our programs and resources. Today, we're the only poetry organization that offers materials for teachers produced by an education expert. Our Educator in Residence, Dr. Madeleine Holzer, ensures that our education content is of the highest quality.

Visit our website, Poets.org, and find over 3,000 biographies of poets, over 11,000 poems discoverable by theme and occasion, plus lesson plans, short essays on poetic terms, guides to poetic schools and movements, and more...

- Watch Our Video Guide to Teaching with Primary Sources
- Browse Our Lesson Plans
- Read Our Tips for Teaching Poetry Remotely
- Sign Up for Teach This Poem and Our Educator Newsletter
- Create a Poetry Anthology to Share with Students
- Participate in the Dear Poet Project
- Celebrate National Poetry Month
- Sign Up for Poem-a-Day
- Find Poetry Near You
- Read Poems for Kids
- Browse Poetry Resources for Teens

We hope you have a great school year. And we're sincerely grateful for all that you do! Here’s hoping our calendar makes it a little easier.

**THEMES:** 💫 *Back to School*  
💫 *National Hispanic Heritage Month*  
💫 *National Translation Month*

**News from the Academy of American Poets**  
💫 *National Poetry Month Poster Contest Begins*

- **7** Labor Day
- **8** International Literacy Day
- **9** BIRTHDAY Sonia Sanchez (b. 1934)  
  💫 National Poetry Month Poster Contest Begins
- **10** BIRTHDAY H. D. (b. 1886)
- **13** National Arts in Education Week Begins
- **15** BIRTHDAY Claude McKay (b. 1889)
- **17** BIRTHDAY William Carlos Williams (b. 1883)
- **22** First Day of Autumn
- **24** National Punctuation Day
- **25** BIRTHDAY Shel Silverstein (b. 1930)
- **26** BIRTHDAY T. S. Eliot (b. 1888)
- **27** Banned Books Week Begins
THEMES: ♦  American Archives Month
♦  Halloween

5  World Teachers Day—Thank you for all you do!
7  BIRTHDAY  Amiri Baraka (b. 1934)
11  Teen Read Week Begins
12  Indigenous Peoples’ Day
14  BIRTHDAY  E. E. Cummings (b. 1894)
16  Dictionary Day
    BIRTHDAY  Oscar Wilde (b. 1854)
17  BIRTHDAY  Jupiter Hammon (b. 1711)
    Black Poetry Day
25  BIRTHDAY  John Berryman (b. 1914)
27  BIRTHDAY  Sylvia Plath (b. 1932)
28  Statue of Liberty Dedicated, 1886
30  BIRTHDAY  Ezra Pound (b. 1885)
    National Poetry Month Poster Contest Closes
31  Halloween

THEMES: ♦  Native American Heritage Month
♦  Thanksgiving

News from the Academy of American Poets
♦  Fall–Winter American Poets Magazine Released

1  BIRTHDAY  Stephen Crane (b. 1871)
2  Día de Muertos Ends
3  National Author’s Day
4  Election Day
9  BIRTHDAY  C. K. Williams (b. 1936)
11  BIRTHDAY  Anne Sexton (b. 1928)
13  Veterans Day
    BIRTHDAY  Robert Louis Stevenson (b. 1850)
    BIRTHDAY  Wanda Coleman (b. 1946)
15  BIRTHDAY  Marianne Moore (b. 1887)
    BIRTHDAY  Ted Berrigan (b. 1934)
18  BIRTHDAY  Margaret Atwood (b. 1939)
26  Thanksgiving
28  BIRTHDAY  William Blake (b. 1757)
**THEMES: ❖ Winter**

1. **Rosa Parks Begins the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955**
2. World AIDS Day
3. **BIRTHDAY** Rainer Maria Rilke (b. 1875)
4. **BIRTHDAY** Christina Rossetti (b. 1830)
5. **Attack on Pearl Harbor, 1941**
6. **BIRTHDAY** James Tate (b. 1943)
7. **BIRTHDAY** John Milton (b. 1608)
8. **BIRTHDAY** Emily Dickinson (b. 1830)
9. **Human Rights Day**
10. **BIRTHDAY** Lola Ridge (b. 1873)
11. **BIRTHDAY** James Wright (b. 1927)
12. **BIRTHDAY** Muriel Rukeyser (b. 1913)
13. **Boston Tea Party, 1773**
14. **President Obama Signs the Native American Apology Resolution**
15. **First Day of Winter**
16. **George Washington Crosses the Delaware River, 1776**
17. **BIRTHDAY** Jean Toomer (b. 1894)

**THEMES: ❖ New Year, Handwriting**

**News from the Academy of American Poets**

1. **National Poetry Month Poster Contest Winner Announced**

1. **New Year’s Day**

6. **BIRTHDAY** Carl Sandburg (b. 1878)
7. **BIRTHDAY** C.D. Wright (b. 1949)
8. **BIRTHDAY** Robert Duncan (b. 1919)
10. **BIRTHDAY** Philip Levine (b. 1928)
16. **BIRTHDAY** Laura Riding Jackson (b. 1901)
17. **BIRTHDAY** William Stafford (b. 1914)
18. **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
19. **Thesaurus Day**
19. **BIRTHDAY** Edgar Allan Poe (b. 1809)
22. **BIRTHDAY** George Gordon Byron (b. 1788)
23. **National Handwriting Day**
25. **BIRTHDAY** Robert Burns (b. 1759)
27. **BIRTHDAY** Lewis Carroll (b. 1832)
**THEMES:** ✶ ✶ *Black History Month* ➔ *Women’s History Month* ✶ ✶ *Spring* ➔ *Spring*

**march**

**THEMES:** ✶ ✶ *Women’s History Month* ➔ *Spring* ✶ ✶

1 BIRTHDAY Robert Lowell (b. 1917)  
2 BIRTHDAY Dr. Seuss (b. 1904)  
3 National Read Across America Day  
4 BIRTHDAY James Merrill (b. 1926)  
5 National Grammar Day  
6 BIRTHDAY Elizabeth Barrett Browning (b. 1806)  
8 BIRTHDAY Jack Kerouac (b. 1922)  
12 BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAY  
14 Pi Day  
17 St. Patrick’s Day  
20 First Day of Spring  
21 World Poetry Day  
26 BIRTHDAY Robert Frost (b. 1874)  
27 BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAY  
31 BIRTHDAY Octavio Paz (b. 1914)

**february**

**THEMES:** ✶ ✶ *Black History Month* ➔ *Valentine’s Day* ✶ ✶

1 BIRTHDAY Langston Hughes (b. 1902)  
2 BIRTHDAY James Joyce (b. 1882)  
3 BIRTHDAY Gertrude Stein (b. 1874)  
8 BIRTHDAY Elizabeth Bishop (b. 1911)  
14 Valentine’s Day  
15 Library Lovers’ Day  
18 BIRTHDAY Audre Lorde (b. 1934)  
20 World Day of Social Justice  
21 BIRTHDAY W. H. Auden (b. 1907)  
22 BIRTHDAY Edna St. Vincent Millay (b. 1892)  
26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day  
27 BIRTHDAY Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (b. 1807)
THEMES: ◆ National Poetry Month! ◆ Arab American Heritage Month

3 BIRTHDAY George Herbert (b. 1593)
4 BIRTHDAY Maya Angelou (b. 1928)

Fizz
7 BIRTHDAY William Wordsworth (b. 1770)
13 BIRTHDAY Seamus Heaney (b. 1939)

Fizz
15 Abraham Lincoln Dies, 1865
16 BIRTHDAY Tracy K. Smith (b. 1972)
17 Haiku Poetry Day
18 Paul Revere’s Ride, 1775
19 BIRTHDAY Etheridge Knight (b. 1931)
21 BIRTHDAY Charlotte Brontë (b. 1816)

 DbContext
22 Earth Day

DbContext
BIRTHDAY Louise Glück (b. 1943)

DbContext
23 BIRTHDAY William Shakespeare (b. 1564)
29 BIRTHDAY Yusef Komunyakaa (b. 1947)

Featured Resources for National Poetry Month
◆ Visit Poets.org for Ways to Celebrate

◆ Have your class participate in our multimedia project Dear Poet.
◆ Download our guide to celebrating Poem in Your Pocket Day.
◆ Display the new National Poetry Month poster.
◆ Read “How to Read a Poem” by Edward Hirsch.
◆ Host a student spoken word event at your school.
◆ Have your students read and write sonnets.
◆ Read an excerpt of The Life of Poetry by Muriel Rukeyser.
◆ Sign up for Poem-a-Day to keep reading all year long.
◆ Sign up for Teach This Poem for free lesson plans.
◆ Share your activities with us on social media:
  #NationalPoetryMonth
◆ Featured Digital Lesson Plan: Dear Poet
◆ Lesson Plans for Introducing Poetry
◆ 30 Ways to Celebrate National Poetry Month is a Virtual Classroom
**THEMES:** ✶ Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month  
✶ Get Caught Reading

- **1** May Day
- **3** National Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
- **4** Children’s Book Week Begins
- **7** BIRTHDAY Robert Browning (b. 1812)
- **9** Mother’s Day  
  ✶ BIRTHDAY U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo (b. 1951)  
  ✶ BIRTHDAY Mona Van Duyn (b. 1921)
- **10** BIRTHDAY Jayne Cortez (b. 1934)
- **12** Limerick Day
  ✶ BIRTHDAY Bernadette Mayer (b. 1945)
- **16** BIRTHDAY Adrienne Rich (b. 1929)
- **21** BIRTHDAY Robert Creeley (b. 1926)
  ✶ *Brooklyn Bridge Opened, 1883*
- **25** BIRTHDAY Ralph Waldo Emerson (b. 1803)
- **27** BIRTHDAY Frank Bidart (b. 1939)
- **28** BIRTHDAY May Swenson (b. 1913)
- **30** BIRTHDAY Countee Cullen (b. 1903)
- **31** BIRTHDAY Walt Whitman (b. 1819)

**THEMES:** ✶ LGBTQ Pride Month  
✶ Graduation  
✶ Summer

- **2** BIRTHDAY Thomas Hardy (b. 1840)
- **3** BIRTHDAY Allen Ginsberg (b. 1926)
- **5** BIRTHDAY Federico Garcia Lorca (b. 1898)
- **7** BIRTHDAY Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917)
- **13** BIRTHDAY Nikki Giovanni (b. 1943)
- **19** Juneteenth
- **20** Father’s Day
  ✶ First Day of Summer
- **27** BIRTHDAY Lucille Clifton (b. 1936)
  ✶ BIRTHDAY Paul Laurence Dunbar (b. 1872)

**Summer Reading**
- ✶ Sign up to receive Summer Camp, a weekly newsletter with poems and fun activities for kids.
- ✶ Browse other summer reading activities.