



LOW HANGING FRUIT

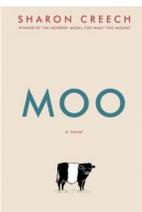
Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, Lots of Poetry is Good for You

By Jeannie Standal

Okay, so this title is really bad, but with benefits that range from expanding vocabulary to increasing empathy, poetry is widely recognized as an essential part of a good education. Finding an accessible entry point to poetry for students, however, can be challenging.

Perhaps, thinking of stuffy works with unfamiliar language, kids don't break into applause when the teacher joyfully announces "We're studying poetry!" They might not realize that some of their favorite authors have written books in verse that are probably in the school library's collection. While the free verse novel is just one of all the varied and wonderful forms that poetry can take, it can be a great place for some students to start. A few great examples of books written in verse are:

For Elementary:



"Inside Out and Back Again" by Thanhha Lai

"Grow: A Novel in Verse" by Juanita Havill

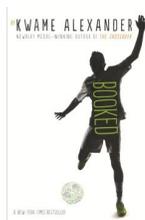
"Moo" by Sharon Creech

For Middle School/Jr. High:

"Out of the Dust" by Karen Hesse

"Booked" by Kwame Alexander

"House Arrest" by K.A. Holt



For Young Adults:



"Bronx Masquerade" by Nikki Grimes

"Long Way Down" by Jason Reynolds

"One of those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies"
by Sonya Sones

Got students who are already into poetry and want to make their voices heard? "Jabberwalking" is an unusual combination of expression and instruction that teachers and students alike will love.

Find more titles like these, plus volumes of poetry in your school library, and while there, wish the librarian a Happy National Poetry Month!

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



Poetry Foundation

This independent literary organization is "committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture". Their website offers poems for children and teens, poem guides, audio poems, a poem of the day section, and much more. Poetry Foundation also publishes *Poetry* magazine. Find issues online, and maybe submit a poem of your own!

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org>

Novelist K-8 Plus

Looking for recommendations for age-appropriate and/or award-winning poetry to incorporate in your classroom? Novelist K-8 Plus, available on lili.org, is a great resource. Search for keyword "poetry" and start browsing! Refine your search results by Books, Series, Authors, or Lists & Articles.

lili.org/dbs/category/18

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Poetry 180

Brought to you by former U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins, Poetry 180, in his words, "is designed to make it easy for students to hear or read a poem on each of the 180 days of the school year." The selected poems are geared toward a high school audience. See the list of all 180 poems, learn more about this program, and get pointers on how to read a poem out loud at the [Poetry 180 website](http://Poetry180.com).



DIGITAL TOOLS



GVRL Contemporary Poets

This Gale Virtual Reference Library eBook offers concise discussions of the lives and principal works of poets from around the world, written by subject experts. Find it and other great resources for educators at <http://lili.org/dbs/category/18>.

Literary Reference Center

Provides information on thousands of authors—including poets!—and their works across literary disciplines and timeframes. Also available on lili.org!



