Welcome to our interactive Poetry in the Classroom Calendar, designed to inspire ideas for bringing poetry into your classroom throughout the 2017–2018 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 2,000 biographies of poets, over 7,000 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 Poets.org, with a Special Introduction by Our Education Ambassador, Richard Blanco
- Browse Our Lesson Plans
- Read Essays on Teaching Poetry
- 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

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.

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**THEMES:**  
- Back to School
- National Hispanic Heritage Month

**News from the Academy of American Poets**
- National Poetry Month Poster Request Form Opened

- 4 Labor Day
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 9 **BIRTHDAY** Sonia Sanchez (b. 1934)
- 10 **BIRTHDAY** H. D. (b. 1886)
- 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)
November

THEMES:  ❧  *Native American Heritage Month*  ❧  *Thanksgiving*

1  BIRTHDAY  Stephen Crane (b. 1871)
4  BIRTHDAY  C. K. Williams (b. 1936)
7  Election Day
9  BIRTHDAY  Anne Sexton (b. 1928)
13  BIRTHDAY  Robert Louis Stevenson (b. 1850)
15  BIRTHDAY  Marianne Moore (b. 1887)
23  BIRTHDAY  Paul Celan (b. 1920)
28  BIRTHDAY  William Blake (b. 1757)

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October

THEMES:  ❧  *American Archives Month*  ❧  *Halloween*

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

2  BIRTHDAY  Wallace Stevens (b. 1879)
5  World Teachers Day—Thank you for all you do!
7  BIRTHDAY  Amiri Baraka (b. 1934)
8  Teen Read Week Begins
9  Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day
13  Friday the 13th
14  BIRTHDAY  E. E. Cummings (b. 1894)
16  Dictionary Day
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)
31  Halloween
Themes: ❄️ Winter

1️⃣ New Year’s Day

6️⃣ Birthday Carl Sandburg (b. 1878)

7️⃣ Birthday Robert Duncan (b. 1919)

10️⃣ Birthday Philip Levine (b. 1928)

15️⃣ Birthday Robinson Jeffers (b. 1887)

16️⃣ Birthday Laura Riding Jackson (b. 1901)

17️⃣ Birthday William Stafford (b. 1914)

18️⃣ Thesaurus Day

19️⃣ Birthday Edgar Allan Poe (b. 1809)

22️⃣ Birthday George Gordon Byron (b. 1788)

23️⃣ National Handwriting Day

25️⃣ Birthday Robert Burns (b. 1759)

27️⃣ Birthday Lewis Carroll (b. 1832)

Themes: ❄️ New Year, Handwriting

News from the Academy of American Poets

1️⃣ New Year’s Day

6️⃣ Birthday Carl Sandburg (b. 1878)

7️⃣ Birthday Christina Rossetti (b. 1830)

10️⃣ Birthday Emily Dickinson (b. 1830)

13️⃣ Birthday James Wright (b. 1927)

15️⃣ Birthday Muriel Rukeyser (b. 1913)

16️⃣ Birthday John Milton (b. 1608)

19️⃣ Birthday Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21️⃣ First Day of Winter

25️⃣ Birthday Laura Riding Jackson (b. 1901)

26️⃣ Birthday William Stafford (b. 1914)

30️⃣ Birthday Lewis Carroll (b. 1832)
THEMES: ✶ Valentine’s Day  
✶ Black History Month

📅 1 BIRTHDAY Langston Hughes (b. 1902)
📅 2 BIRTHDAY James Joyce (b. 1882)
📅 3 BIRTHDAY Gertrude Stein (b. 1874)
📅 8 BIRTHDAY Elizabeth Bishop (b. 1911)
→ World Read Aloud Day
📅 14 Valentine’s Day
📅 18 BIRTHDAY Audre Lorde (b. 1934)
📅 19 Presidents’ Day
📅 20 World Day of Social Justice
📅 21 BIRTHDAY W. H. Auden (b. 1907)
📅 22 BIRTHDAY Edna St. Vincent Millay (b. 1892)
→ Tell a Fairy Tale Day
📅 26 BIRTHDAY Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (b. 1807)

THEMES: ✶ Women’s History Month

✶ 1 BIRTHDAY Robert Lowell (b. 1917)
✶ 2 BIRTHDAY Dr. Seuss (b. 1904)
✶ National Read Across America Day
✶ 3 BIRTHDAY James Merrill (b. 1926)
✶ 4 National Grammar Day
✶ 6 BIRTHDAY Elizabeth Barrett Browning (b. 1806)
✶ 8 International Women’s Day
✶ 12 BIRTHDAY Jack Kerouac (b. 1922)
→ 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 Frank O’Hara (b. 1926)
✶ ✶ World Theatre Day
✶ ✶ 31 BIRTHDAY Octavio Paz (b. 1914)
THEMES:  ❖ National Poetry Month!

News from the Academy of American Poets
❖ Spring–Summer American Poets Magazine Released

❖ 3 BIRTHDAY George Herbert (b. 1593)
❖ 4 BIRTHDAY Maya Angelou (b. 1928)
❖ 7 BIRTHDAY William Wordsworth (b. 1770)
❖ 8 National Library Week Begins
❖ 9 BIRTHDAY Charles Baudelaire (b. 1821)
  13 BIRTHDAY Seamus Heaney (b. 1939)
❖ 15 Abraham Lincoln Dies, 1865
❖ 16 BIRTHDAY U.S. Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith (b. 1972)
❖ 17 Haiku Poetry Day
❖ 18 Paul Revere’s Ride, 1775
❖ 22 Earth Day
❖ 23 BIRTHDAY William Shakespeare (b. 1564)
❖ 30 Children’s Book Week Begins

Featured Resources for National Poetry Month
❖ Visit Poets.org for More 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.
❖ Share your activities with us on social media: #NationalPoetryMonth
❖ Featured Lesson Plan: Dear Poet
❖ Featured Lesson Plan: Word Karaoke
❖ Featured Lesson Plan: Get Your Haiku On
❖ Featured Lesson Plan: Guerilla Poetry
❖ Featured Lesson Plan: Poems about Poetry
May

THEMES: ✤ Asian/Pacific American Heritage
       ✤ Get Caught Reading

✦ 1  May Day
✦ 3  World Press Freedom Day
✦ 6  National Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
✦ 7  BIRTHDAY Robert Browning (b. 1812)
✦ 9  BIRTHDAY Mona Van Duyn (b. 1921)
✦ 10 BIRTHDAY Jayne Cortez (b. 1934)
✦ 12 Limerick Day
✦ 13 BIRTHDAY Edward Lear (b. 1812)
✦ 16 BIRTHDAY Adrienne Rich (b. 1929)
✦ 18 International Museum Day
✦ 24 BIRTHDAY Robert Creeley (b. 1926)
✦ 25 BIRTHDAY Ralph Waldo Emerson (b. 1803)
✦ 28 BIRTHDAY May Swenson (b. 1913)
✦ 17 BIRTHDAY Memorial Day
✦ 30 BIRTHDAY Countee Cullen (b. 1903)
✦ 31 BIRTHDAY Walt Whitman (b. 1819)

June

THEMES: ✤ LGBTQ Pride Month
       ✤ Graduation

✦ 2  BIRTHDAY Thomas Hardy (b. 1840)
✦ 3  BIRTHDAY Allen Ginsberg (b. 1926)
✦ 5  BIRTHDAY Federico García Lorca (b. 1898)
✦ 7  BIRTHDAY Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917)
✦ 13 BIRTHDAY W. B. Yeats (b. 1865)
✦ 14 Flag Day
✦ 17 Father’s Day
✦ 27 BIRTHDAY Lucille Clifton (b. 1936)
✦ 31 BIRTHDAY Paul Laurence Dunbar (b. 1872)

Summer Reading
✦ Sign up for Teach This Poem to receive curated anthologies
    of poems on popular themes.