academy of american poets

# *Poetry in the Classroom Calendar*

**2018–2019**

**key**

Each birthday links to the poet's biography on poets.org

❖ links to a related poem or resource

↪ links to a related lesson plan

🚌 links to a literary landmark and field trip opportunity

Welcome to our interactive Poetry in the Classroom Calendar, designed to inspire ideas for bringing poetry into your classroom throughout the 2018–2019 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 2,500 biographies of poets, over 8,000 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.

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

**News from the Academy of American Poets**

- ❖ *National Poetry Month Poster Request Form Opened*
- ❖ *National Poetry Month Poster Contest Begins*

- ❖ 3 Labor Day
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 9 National Arts in Education Week Begins
- 10 **BIRTHDAY** H. D. (b. 1886)
- 15 **BIRTHDAY** Claude McKay (b. 1889)
- 17 **BIRTHDAY** William Carlos Williams (b. 1883)
- ❖ 22 First Day of Autumn
- ❖ 23 Banned Books Week Begins
- ❖ 24 National Punctuation Day
- 25 **BIRTHDAY** Shel Silverstein (b. 1930)
- ❖ 26 **BIRTHDAY** T. S. Eliot (b. 1888)

**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)
❖ Teen Read Week Begins
❖ 8 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
❖ 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:** ❖ *Native American Heritage Month*
❖ *Thanksgiving*

1 **BIRTHDAY** Stephen Crane (b. 1871)
❖ National Author's Day
❖ 4 **BIRTHDAY** C. K. Williams (b. 1936)
↪ 6 Election Day
❖ 9 **BIRTHDAY** Anne Sexton (b. 1928)
↪ 11 Veterans Day
13 **BIRTHDAY** Robert Louis Stevenson (b. 1850)
↪ ❖ 15 **BIRTHDAY** Marianne Moore (b. 1887)
**BIRTHDAY** Ted Berrigan (b. 1934)
↪ 22 Thanksgiving
23 **BIRTHDAY** Paul Celan (b. 1920)
28 **BIRTHDAY** William Blake (b. 1757)

**THEMES:** ❖ *Winter*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ⮑ | 1 | *Rosa Parks Begins the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955* |
| | | World AIDS Day |
| | 4 | **BIRTHDAY** Rainer Maria Rilke (b. 1875) |
| | 5 | **BIRTHDAY** Christina Rossetti (b. 1830) |
| ❖ | 7 | *Attack on Pearl Harbor, 1941* |
| ❖ | 8 | **BIRTHDAY** James Tate (b. 1943) |
| ❖ | 9 | **BIRTHDAY** John Milton (b. 1608) |
| 🚌 ❖ | 10 | **BIRTHDAY** Emily Dickinson (b. 1830) |
| ❖ | | Human Rights Day |
| | 13 | **BIRTHDAY** James Wright (b. 1927) |
| | 15 | **BIRTHDAY** Muriel Rukeyser (b. 1913) |
| ❖ | 16 | *Boston Tea Party, 1773* |
| ❖ | 19 | *President Obama Signs the Native American Apology Resolution, 2009* |
| ⮑ | 21 | First Day of Winter |
| ❖ | 25 | *George Washington Crosses the Delaware River, 1776* |
| | 26 | **BIRTHDAY** Jean Toomer (b. 1894) |
| | 30 | **BIRTHDAY** Rudyard Kipling (b. 1865) |

**THEMES:** ❖ *New Year, Handwriting*

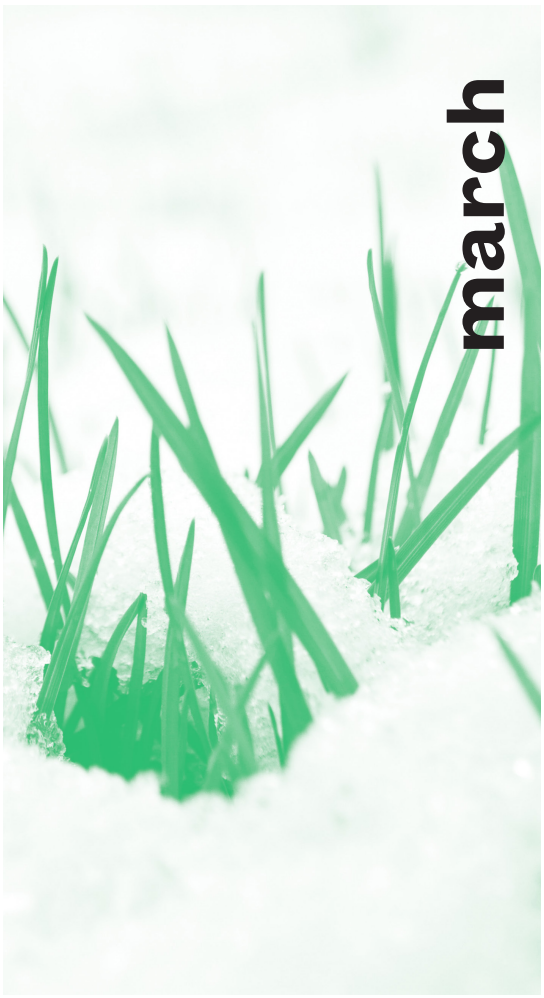
**News from the Academy of American Poets**

❖ *Dear Poet Project Begins*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ⮑ ❖ | 1 | New Year's Day |
| 🚌 | 6 | **BIRTHDAY** Carl Sandburg (b. 1878) |
| ❖ | 7 | **BIRTHDAY** Robert Duncan (b. 1919) |
| ❖ | 10 | **BIRTHDAY** Philip Levine (b. 1928) |
| 🚌 | | **BIRTHDAY** Robinson Jeffers (b. 1887) |
| ❖ | 16 | **BIRTHDAY** Laura Riding Jackson (b. 1901) |
| | 17 | **BIRTHDAY** William Stafford (b. 1914) |
| ⮑ | 18 | Thesaurus Day |
| 🚌 ❖ | 19 | **BIRTHDAY** Edgar Allan Poe (b. 1809) |
| ❖ | 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| | 22 | **BIRTHDAY** George Gordon Byron (b. 1788) |
| ❖ | 23 | National Handwriting Day |
| | 25 | **BIRTHDAY** Robert Burns (b. 1759) |
| | 27 | **BIRTHDAY** Lewis Carroll (b. 1832) |

**THEMES:** ❖ *Valentine's Day*
↳❖ *Black History Month*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 🚌 ❖ | 1 | **BIRTHDAY** | Langston Hughes (b. 1902) |
| ↳ | | | World Read Aloud Day |
| | 2 | **BIRTHDAY** | James Joyce (b. 1882) |
| ❖ ❖ | 3 | **BIRTHDAY** | Gertrude Stein (b. 1874) |
| | 8 | **BIRTHDAY** | Elizabeth Bishop (b. 1911) |
| ↳ | 14 | | Valentine's Day |
| ❖ | | | Library Lovers' Day |
| ❖ | 18 | **BIRTHDAY** | Audre Lorde (b. 1934) |
| ❖ | | | Presidents' Day |
| ❖ ❖ | 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:** ↳❖ *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 |
| | | | World Storytelling Day |
| ❖ | 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)
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ 29 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 except 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

national poetry month

**THEMES:**
- ❖ *Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month*
- ❖ *Get Caught Reading*
- ❖ *Walt Whitman's Bicentennial*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ❖ | 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 | **BIRTHDAY** Edward Lear (b. 1812) |
| ❖ | | Mother's Day |
| ❖ ❖ | 16 | **BIRTHDAY** Adrienne Rich (b. 1929) |
| ❖ | 18 | International Museum Day |
| ❖ | | **BIRTHDAY** Robert Creeley (b. 1926) |
| ❖ | 24 | *Brooklyn Bridge Opened, 1883* |
| ❖ | 25 | **BIRTHDAY** Ralph Waldo Emerson (b. 1803) |
| ❖ | 27 | Memorial Day |
| | 28 | **BIRTHDAY** May Swenson (b. 1913) |
| ❖ | 30 | **BIRTHDAY** Countee Cullen (b. 1903) |
| ↳ ❖ | 31 | **BIRTHDAY** Walt Whitman (b. 1819) |

**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 |
| ❖ | 16 | Father's Day |
| | 27 | **BIRTHDAY** Lucille Clifton (b. 1936) |
| 🚌 | | **BIRTHDAY** Paul Laurence Dunbar (b. 1872) |

### Summer Reading

❖ *Sign up for Teach This Poem to receive curated anthologies of poems on popular themes.*