

Poetry in the Classroom Calendar

2020–2021

key

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

❖ links to a related resource on poets.org

↪ links to a related lesson plan on poets.org

🚗 denotes a field trip opportunity to a historic site

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](#)



september



october

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*



november

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*
- ❖ World AIDS Day
- 4 BIRTHDAY Rainer Maria Rilke (b. 1875)
- 5 BIRTHDAY Christina Rossetti (b. 1830)
- ❖ *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
- 12 BIRTHDAY Lola Ridge (b. 1873)
- 13 BIRTHDAY James Wright (b. 1927)
- ↪ 15 BIRTHDAY Muriel Rukeyser (b. 1913)
- ❖ Boston Tea Party, 1773
- ❖ President Obama Signs the Native American Apology Resolution
- ❖ 21 First Day of Winter
- ❖ 25 *George Washington Crosses the Delaware River, 1776*
- 26 BIRTHDAY Jean Toomer (b. 1894)

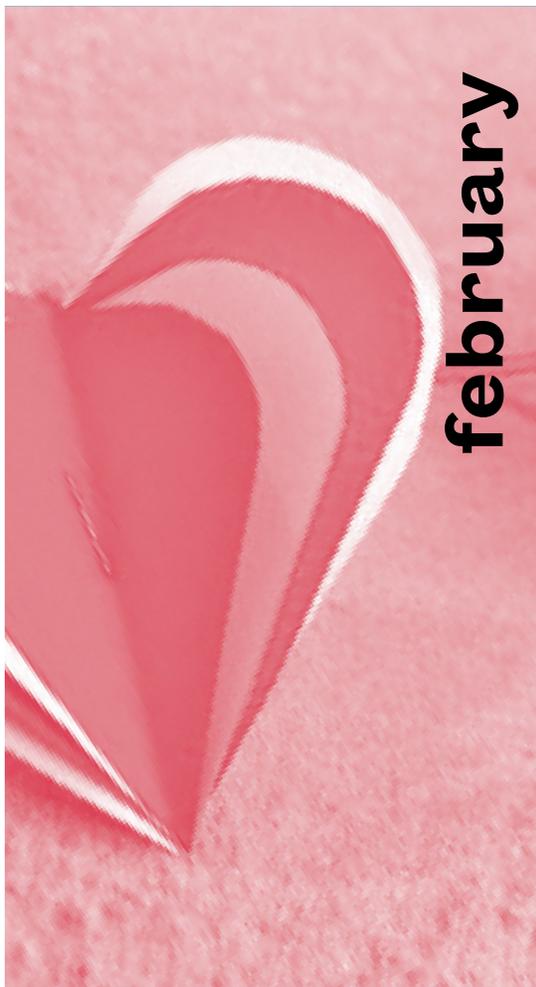


THEMES: ❖ *New Year, Handwriting*

News from the Academy of American Poets

- ❖ *National Poetry Month Poster Contest Winner Announced*

- ↪ ❖ 1 *New Year's Day*
- ❖ 6 BIRTHDAY Carl Sandburg (b. 1878)
- ❖ BIRTHDAY C.D. Wright (b. 1949)
- 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 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*
- ↪ ❖ 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)



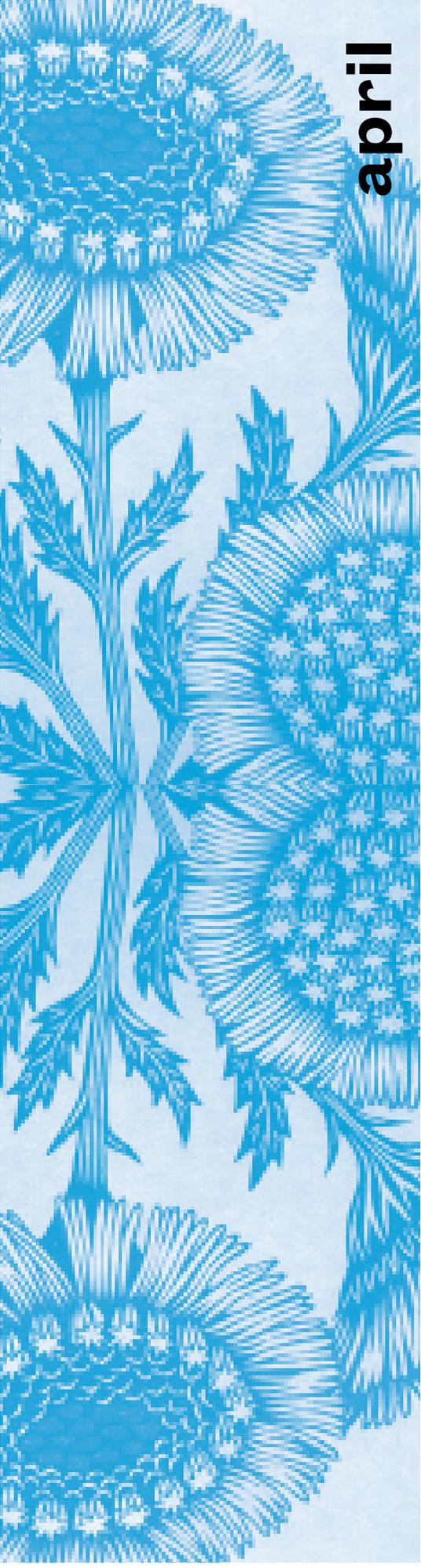
THEMES: ↪ ❖ *Black History Month*
❖ *Valentine's Day*

- ❖ 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*
- ❖ *Library Lovers' Day*
- ❖ 15 *Presidents 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: ↪ ❖ *Women's History Month*
↪ ❖ *Spring*

- 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)



april

THEMES: ❖ *National Poetry Month!*
↳ *Arab American Heritage Month*

- 3 BIRTHDAY George Herbert (b. 1593)
- 4 BIRTHDAY Maya Angelou (b. 1928)
- ❖ National Library Week Begins
- 7 BIRTHDAY William Wordsworth (b. 1770)
- 13 BIRTHDAY Seamus Heaney (b. 1939)
- ❖ 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)
- ↳ ❖ 22 Earth Day
- BIRTHDAY Louise Glück (b. 1943)
- ↳ 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 García Lorca (b. 1898)
- 7 **BIRTHDAY** Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917)
- ↪ **BIRTHDAY** Nikki Giovanni (b. 1943)
- 13 **BIRTHDAY** W. B. Yeats (b. 1865)
- ❖ 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.