



POETRY

OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

ARIZONA STATE
Recitation
FINALS 2009

**SPACE 55 AND
ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY, CARSON
BALLROOM, OLD MAIN**

February 19-20, 2009



Arizona
Commission
on the Arts



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

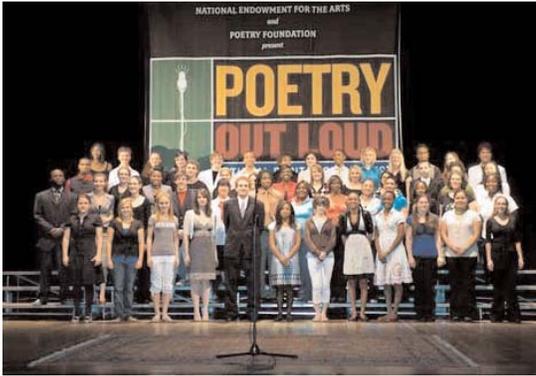
POETRY



FOUNDATION

Letter from the Director

I want to welcome everyone and congratulate our students at the Fourth Annual *Poetry Out Loud* State Recitation Finals. I have had the pleasure of watching Arizona high school students compete these past three years in the National *Poetry Out Loud* program, sponsored by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation. In its fourth year, nearly 5,000 high school students have directly participated in the Arizona statewide competition.



Pictured: Fifty-two champions from every state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands competed at the 2008 National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Contest. © James Kegley. Courtesy of National Endowment for the Arts.

Those of you here today, the recitation champions of your schools, have come from communities across our state. You have worked hard to get here, honing your skills with professional poets, theatre and literature teachers, and, of course, your families. Walt Whitman said, "To have great poem, there must be great audiences, too." My personal thanks go out to all the audiences, who with love and attention, have listened to the verses you have memorized for today's competition.

Of all the arts events I participate in across our great state, I always look forward to the State *Poetry Out Loud* Finals. Watching such a diverse group of exceptional young people stand tall, recite, and display their understanding and love of poetry is truly remarkable—and inspiring. You are all winners today.

Poetry invokes us to grow. How that happens is a mystery, but we are not the same after reading a great poem.

You should all know that no matter what the outcome of today's contest, your hard work will be rewarded. You have made these poems your own—gotten inside them, learned their meanings, and interpreted the spirit of the poets in your own personal voice. These are skills that transcend poetry, skills that will open you to new ways of thinking in whatever direction you choose to go.

Robert C. Booker
Executive Director
Arizona Commission on the Arts

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The **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation** have partnered with State Arts Agencies to support **Poetry Out Loud**, which encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. *Poetry Out Loud* seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by capitalizing on the latest trends in poetry—recitation and performance. The program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of rap music among youth. *Poetry Out Loud* invites the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class. Through *Poetry Out Loud*, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

The winner of the **Poetry Out Loud Arizona** Finals will receive \$200 and the winner's school library will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library.

The state champion of the *Poetry Out Loud* Arizona Finals will receive an all-expenses-paid trip (with a chaperone) to compete in the National Finals in Washington, DC, on April 26 - 28, 2009. The *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the *Poetry Out Loud* National Champion.

For more information on *Poetry Out Loud*, visit www.poetryoutloud.org or www.azarts.gov/poetryoutloud.

Recitation Schedule and Overview

Semifinals and Finals Schedule

Welcome

First Recitations

15 Minute Break

Second Recitations

15 Minute Break

Announcement of Round Winners/State Champion

We congratulate each student who has participated in *Poetry Out Loud* in their classroom and at their school level. It is quite an accomplishment to make it to the State Finals. This year, we have 16 high school finalists competing for the 2009 title of Arizona *Poetry Out Loud* State Champion.

This year Arizona is proud to announce that nearly 5,000 students and 150 teachers have participated in *Poetry Out Loud*.

Each participating student will recite two poems during the semifinals round. Eight students from the semifinals will advance to the final round of recitations beginning on the evening of Friday, February 20th.

Each student will be evaluated on a scale from one (very weak) to six (outstanding) using the following criteria:

- Physical Presence
- Voice and Articulation
- Appropriateness of Dramatization
- Level of Difficulty
- Evidence of Understanding
- Overall Performance

Additionally, a maximum of eight points will be assigned to students for **accuracy**. For your reference, you will find a sample of the evaluation sheet in this program. We hope you enjoy the recitations!

Student Finalists



Judith Maciel, Aqua Fria High School, Avondale

"First Poem For You" by Kim Addonizio
"Theme for English B" by Langston Hughes

Judith is seventeen years old. She was introduced to poetry at an early age with books by Dr. Suess. It was a time when poetry was meant to be listened to and enjoyed. As she advanced through grade school, poetry became something she needed to analyze, as if it were a science. Now she realizes poetry is not a science; it is an art. She is not here to dissect these poems, she is here to interpret and enjoy them.



Mathew Steiner, Amphitheater High School, Tucson

"Ode on Solitude" by Alexander Pope
"Preludes" by T.S. Eliot

Matt an aspiring actor, with New York in mind for college. He sees poetry as great acting experience, by living out the feelings of poets and their poems. Matt loves to recite poetry and is glad to be participating in *Poetry Out Loud*.



Jenny Strickland, Arizona School for the Arts, Phoenix

"The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" by Sir Walter Raleigh
"Salomé" by A.

Jenny is very excited to be competing at the state level of *Poetry Out Loud!* She is a junior drama major at Arizona School for the Arts. She takes three theatre classes and is currently involved in both of her school's shows: "Runaways" and "Months on End". She has a great love for recitation and poetry.



Tonya McDonald, Cactus High School, Glendale

"Dolce et Decorum est" by Wilfred Owen
"If" by Rudyard Kipling

Tanya is a senior at Cactus High School. She has been a participant of *Poetry Out Loud* for 2 years. Tanya is also a member of the marching band and plays the alto saxophone. Next year, Tanya plans to attend Arizona State University to study business.

Student Finalists



Kristin Couture, Chaparral High School, Scottsdale

"Kissing Stieglitz Good-Bye" by Thomas Campion

"Playing Dead" by Andrew Hudgins

Kristin is heavily involved in theatre. She has been acting, writing, and directing for the past three years. As an actor, she has played the giant's wife and baby's cry from *Into the Woods*; the airheaded Brooke from *Noise's Off*; and Babette, the quirky feather duster, from *Beauty and the Beast*. She recently wrote and directed an award-winning duo pantomime called *The Last Adventure*. Kristin has many random hidden talents, such as unicycling, playing the drums, and fencing. She enjoys funny dancing, people-watching, and laughing so hard, her stomach hurts.



Kayla Garfield, Coconino High School, Flagstaff

"Why I Am Not A Painter" by Frank O'Hara

"I Hear America Singing" by Walt Whitman

Kayla is a senior at Coconino High School in Flagstaff. She is a member of the Drama Club and a volunteer at the local community theater, Theatrikos. She is an electronics student and a SkillsUSA member. Next year, she will be attending NAU.



Sarah Matthews, Copper Canyon High School, Glendale

"Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou

"To the Ladies" by Lady Mary Chudleigh

Sarah is a senior at Copper Canyon High School, where she has held officer positions in a number of school sponsored clubs, such as Student Government, The Sports Medicine Academy, Speech and Debate, and Theatre. In her free time, she volunteers at a local homeless shelter called The Andre House and organizes special events for her church. Sarah's ultimate goal is to become a doctor and travel to third world countries where she can assist those who cannot afford medical services.

No Photo Available

Joshua McClendon, Eagle Point High, Buckeye

"Romance" by Claude McKay

"Confessions" by Robert Browning

This is the first year that Joshua has participated in *Poetry Out Loud*. He has watched actors in drama at his school, but never participated. *Poetry Out Loud* is a new experience for him and he is having fun. One of his goals when he is finished with school, is to join the Army. Joshua loves to read. One of his favorite books is *Harry Potter*. He also enjoys water skiing and wake boarding.

Student Finalists



Manny Santana, La Joya Community High School, Avondale

"It Couldn't Be Done" by Edgar Albert Guest

"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe

This is Manny's first year competing in *Poetry Out Loud* and he loves it. His only regret is not participating earlier.



Fernando Sandoval, Nogales High School, Nogales

"To My Mother" by Wendell Berry

"She Walks in Beauty" by Lord Byron

Fernando has been in honors classes in high school. His future plans for college are attending the University of Arizona and majoring in business. Fernando enjoys reading both fiction and nonfictional books, such as the *Harry Potter* series and *Lord of the Rings*. J.K Rowling is one of his favorite authors. *Poetry Out Loud* has been a great experience for him; that has showed him he is capable of doing more than just reading poetry at home.



Lilah Rose Edwards, Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona

"Madmen" by Billy Collins

"I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died" by Emily Dickinson

Lilah Rose Edwards has always enjoyed the creative side to life. She is aspiring to go to school for artistic expression, and hopes to study photography, music, and any performance-based art. Lilah enjoys to singing and creating songs. She believes in the power of kindness and love, and is very excited for her future plans and goals in life!



Katie Bartlett, Sinagua High School, Flagstaff

"Difference" by Stephen Vincent Benet

"Invictus" by William Ernest Henly

Katie is from Flagstaff, Arizona. She enjoys singing, dancing, snowboarding, and volleyball. She absolutely adores poetry and is so very excited to be participating in the Arizona State Recitation. Katie is very fond of the two poems that she has chosen to recite and hopes you enjoy them as much as she does.

Student Finalists



Alexander Longfellow, St. Gregory College Prep School, Tucson

"A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman

Although born in Boston, Massachusetts, Alexander has lived in Tucson for the last 14 years. He is currently a junior at St. Gregory College Preparatory School and is looking forward to his senior year. Although he has not recited poetry that often, he is a seasoned actor and has performed in numerous plays both at St Gregory and at local community theaters. A few of his roles include Tony in "West Side Story", 'Rooster' in "Annie", and Rolf in "The Sound of Music". He enjoys sports and competes at the school level in soccer and volleyball. He is thrilled to represent St. Gregory School at the *Poetry Out Loud* competition in Phoenix.



Griselda Montijo, Sunnyside High School, Tucson

"Eagle Poem" by Joy Harjo

"I Am" by John Clare

Griselda is a junior at Sunnyside High School in Tucson, Arizona. Participating in *Poetry Out Loud* has given her a taste of what well-written poems are, and has inspired her to write more of her own poems. She aspires to go to college, take more creative writing courses, and possibly study to become a teacher. This summer, Griselda participated in a writing workshop at the University of Arizona.



Erik Hollis, Tucson Magnet High School, Tucson

"The Bad Old Days" by Kenneth Rexroth

"I Grant You Ample Leave" by George Eliot

Erik Hollis is a senior attending Tucson Magnet High School (TMHS). He is active in the advanced dramatic, literary, and visual arts programs with TMHS and is a member of the school's Poetry Club. Erik is the 2008 Arizona State POL Champion. Some of his favorite poets include Nikki Giovanni, Saul Williams, and Allen Ginsberg. He has performed in musical theater with the Arizona Theatre Company's Summer on Stage. Erik's plans beyond high school include college, and continuing to pursue his varied interests in the fine arts.



John Simon, University High School, Tucson

"Strange Meeting" by Wilfred Owen

"To the Memory of Mr. Oldham" by John Dryden

John placed second in University High School's finals round in 2007 as a sophomore. He is thrilled to compete in the *Poetry Out Loud* state finals this year as a junior. John is active in the school drama group, "The Cast of Thousands." He is also active in other school clubs, such as Science Olympiad and the Fellowship of Christian Students (recently renamed "Jesus Freaks"). He plans on competing with *Poetry Out Loud* again as a senior in 2009.

Judges - Semifinals



Ann Dernier

Ann Dernier is co-founder, with poet Joni Wallace, of Poets' Studio, a workshop series for writers. She is on the Arizona Commission on the Arts' Teaching Artist Roster. She is a *Kore Press* author, has been a preliminary judge for their First Book Award from 2004-2008 and led the *Grrls Literary Activism* workshop. She is editor of *Writing Out of the Darkness*, an anthology of poetry by torture survivors and their families. Ann served as writer-in-residence, and then Director of the Tucson Writers' Project at the Tucson-Pima Public Library from 1985-2005. Her work appears in local and national publications. She received a B.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona and an M.F.A. from the Iowa Writer's Workshop. Ann lives in Tucson with her husband Chris Smith and their children Nick and Hadley.



Jeremiah Blue

Jeremiah Blue has been organizing, writing, and performing poetry in Phoenix since 2005. In 2007, he co-founded the Downtown Poetry Slam in Central Phoenix, and currently serves as the Executive/Creative Director. As a writer and performer, he has been a member of two National Poetry Slam teams and toured the country and the state to perform poetry. Jeremiah currently lives in downtown Phoenix, performing and organizing poetry in high schools, colleges, museums, poetry slams, and anywhere else that will allow it.



Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker

Kevin Vaughan-Brubaker is a poet, musician, freelance writer, actor, and public artist. He is the secretary of the board for *Nightboat Books*, a literary press in New York City, and is a public art project manager for the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. Kevin has an MFA in creative writing from Arizona State University and teaches humanities courses for University of Phoenix Online.



Robert X. Planet

Robert X. Planet is an award-winning set and costume designer, writer, musician, composer, producer, actor and director who has participated in scores of productions in Arizona, New York and California. Locally, he is best known as the former Drama Critic and Thrills Editor at *Phoenix New Times*. Last November, he appeared in iTheatre Collaborative's *Eat the Taste* at Herberger Theatre Center, where he previously designed and directed *Bad Seed* and acted in *The Fish Must Die*. Since 2000, Robert—along with reading partner Roxanne DeWinter—has performed the works of Edgar Allan Poe in annual shows at Alwun House, PaperHeart Gallery and Kerr Cultural Center. Last month, he participated in "The Poe Show," celebrating the author's 200th birthday, at Mesa Arts Center.

Judges - Evening Finals



Teniqua Broughton

Teniqua Broughton is the Program Director at Free Arts of Arizona, nonprofit organization that brings therapeutic creative arts program to abused, homeless, and at-risk children through Maricopa County. Teniqua has more than 10 years of combined experience in providing both direct services for children with emotional or behavioral disorders at the Cultural Participation Department at Arizona State University Gammage. Teniqua continues to provide leadership on the Journey Home program for incarcerated women in collaboration with the Maricopa County Estrella Jail and local artists, as well as serving as project manager for Arts Leading Learning Model (ALLM) at Desert Harbor Elementary School in the Peoria Unified School District. Teniqua is President for the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education and a Board of Trustee with the Desert Botanical Gardens.



Tania Katan

Tania Katan is an author, playwright, and performer. Her one-woman show, *Saving Tania's Privates* (adapted from her memoir *My One Night Stand With Cancer*), made its European premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2008 where it was a critical success. In addition to her solo performance, Katan's plays have been seen at Circle Repertory Theatre, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, The Pacific Residence Theatre, Shotgun Players, Theatre of NOTE, The Renberg Theatre, and other venues throughout the United States. Among other awards for her playwriting, Tania is most honored to be a recipient of the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award. Her memoir was the winner of the 2006 Judy Grahn Award, an honoree of the 2006 American Library Association's Stonewall Book Award, and a finalist for the 2006 Lambda Literary Award. Katan is a regular contributor to *The Advocate*, *Compete*, *OurChart.com*, and *Stand Up To Cancer's* online magazine. And because of her unique ability to write and perform, she has become a regular performer at Comedy Central's *Sit-n-Spin*. Tania's work has been written about in *The New York Times*, *Bust*, *Library Journal*, *Running Times*, *DIVA*, *GCN Ireland*, *The Scotsman*, and other international publications. Tania is a guest lecturer, topless marathon runner, and she's a good time at a cocktail party! For more information: www.taniakatan.com



Myrlin Hepworth

Myrlin Hepworth teaches at Maxwell Preschool Academy. As a senior in high school, he began working with children of all ages through the Care For Kids Ameri Corps program in Lewiston Idaho. After graduation, Hepworth made his way to Arizona where he found work, college, and the Arizona Slam Scene. In August of 2008 Hepworth competed in his second consecutive National Poetry Slam in Madison, Wisconsin, where he helped his team reach 27th place among 76 teams. On the national scene he has performed at major venues, in Seattle, Washington; Dallas, Texas; Austin, Texas; Madison, Wisconsin; Tucson, Arizona; Phoenix, Arizona; Flagstaff Arizona; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the spring of 2008 Hepworth performed in numerous high schools across Arizona. He was the youngest poet to be invited to perform and teach a workshop at both the Northern Arizona Youth Poetry Festival, in Flagstaff, and Poetry Central in Phoenix. He has been featured in *The Noise*, *Arizona Daily Sun*, and *AZ Central*. In the spring of 2010 Hepworth expects to finish his bachelors degree in English at Arizona State University. He looks forward to opening up for Jimmy Santiago Baca, at the Coconino Center for the arts in Flagstaff Arizona this coming March.

Sponsored Evening Reading

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is proud to present, the 2009 Arizona State *Poetry Out Loud* (POL) finals in Partnership with Arizona State University's Young Writers Program and The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing.

This year's POL state finals will be hosted by The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing's annual *Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference*. The *Desert Nights, Rising Stars Conference* is a literary celebration where creative writers have a chance to hone their craft in the classroom and also "rub elbows" with distinguished writers, sharing dialogue during classes, workshops, readings, and other events. By keeping the number of participants small, the Piper Center is able to offer an experience that is both intimate and affordable, all while maintaining their commitment to be the premier writers conference in the West.

The Piper Center has offered each school champion and two parents or guardians the opportunity to attend the evening reading with Pulitzer Prize winning poet Natasha Trethewey immediately following the *Poetry Out Loud* Finals, February 20th.

Arizona State University Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing

The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University is the Southwest's creative hub for writers and readers, and the artistic and intellectual heart of a newly vibrant, multinational, and culturally diverse world of writers. This year, The Piper Center is hosting the state finals for *Poetry Out Loud*, at its 7th annual *Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference* on ASU's Tempe campus. www.asu.edu/pipercenter

Arizona State University Young Writer's Program

ASU's Young Writers Program (YWP) is a fourth through twelfth-grade outreach effort offered by Education Partnerships/Office of Youth Preparation and in partnership with The Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing. YWP places teaching artists and writers into schools to provide early positive arts experiences through creative writing, while simultaneously addressing writing concepts and skills that increase chances for student achievement. This year YWP provided POL workshops to students and teachers participating in the state-wide competition. www.asu.edu/ywp



Natasha Trethewey

Natasha Trethewey is author of *Native Guard* (Houghton Mifflin 2006), for which she won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, *Bellocq's Ophelia* (Graywolf, 2002) which was named a Notable Book for 2003 by the American Library Association, and *Domestic Work* (Graywolf, 2000). She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Study Center, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. Her poems have appeared in such journals and anthologies as *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *The Best American Poetry 2000 and 2003*. Currently, she is Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University. Her first collection of poetry, *Domestic Work* (2000), was selected by Rita Dove as the winner of the inaugural Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet and won both the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry.

Writing with Metaphors Exercise

By Myrlin Hepworth

This activity is designed to encourage, and teach young writers how to incorporate the use of metaphors in their writing. The following exercise is created to develop an open teacher student exchange.

Step One: Discussing a Metaphor

Define what a metaphor is, and discuss where metaphors may be found; possibly in films, stories, poetry, and music. Elaborate on the purpose of a metaphor and distinguish the power of a metaphor in comparison to a straight statement. To loosen students up it may be effective to prepare common examples of metaphors found in pop culture that students may identify with.

1. Write the metaphors on the board and begin discussion.

Step Two: Listing

Ask students to get out a piece of paper and something to write with. Ask them to draw five columns on their paper. Above each column ask students to write, "Subjects" in the first column, "Occupations" in the second, "Objects" in the third, "Animals" in the fourth, and finally "Abstractions" for the fifth. On the board do the same.

1. Explain what each list represents. For the list "Subjects" write pronouns (she, he, his, her,) as well as family member titles, mom, brother, sister cousin. Have students copy from the board. For the list titled "Occupations" give students two minutes to list as many occupations as they can think of. After two minutes has passed ask them what they have come up with and write their answers on the board. Repeat the same format for "Objects" and "Animals"
2. For the list titled "Abstractions" explain to them what an abstraction is. Something that is not tangible, or concrete. For example, love honesty, hope and fear are good examples. Finish the list.

Step Three: Writing a Metaphor

Ask students to help you write a metaphor by choosing elements from the words they have listed.

1. Ask them to choose a subject and write it on the board. If they choose the pronoun "her" write it on the board
2. Ask them to choose an abstraction and write it on the board after the pronoun. If they choose the abstraction "love" write, "her love is" on the board.
3. Ask them to choose a word from either the "Animal" "Object" or "Occupations" list. If they choose the word "tiger" write, "her love is a tiger" on the board.
4. Discuss this metaphor. Ask students what a tiger represents. Students may respond by explaining that a tiger is fierce, and dangerous. Ask them if there are ways to better explain this tiger. Is it hiding? Is it lurking? Is it stalking? Is it sleeping? Ask how these adjectives better describe the subject and the explained abstraction. Then use them if necessary. Write the adjective on the board. Example "Her love is a tiger hiding in the tall grass."
5. Repeat this exercise using each list.
6. Finally, give students time to write their own metaphors using whatever abstractions and subjects they decide.
7. Conclude this exercise by sharing metaphors and briefly discussing their significance.

Poetry Resources

Recommended Books and Journals

The American Poetry Review

Published six times a year, *The American Poetry Review* contains a diverse amount of contemporary authors ranging from poetry to prose. Over the past 30 years, APR has helped to make poetry a more public art form without compromising the art of poetry. www.aprweb.org

***Poetry Out Loud* by Robert Alden Rubin**

This easy-to-read book will help students, teachers, and poets understand poems more clearly. Every page of poetry has marginal notes highlighting, rhythm, rhyme meter, language, and sound. This book offers a diverse range of poetry to engage any reader.

***Poetry Speaks Expanded: Hear Great Poets Read Their Work from Tennyson to Plath* by Elise Paschen and Rebekah Presson Mosby**

The second edition of the popular anthology includes 47 renowned poets reciting selections from their own work. The book also includes photos and biographies of the poets and three CDs with recordings reflecting the pitch and tone of presenting a poem. A great resource for the Poetry Out Loud program.

***The Practice of Poetry: Writing Exercises From Poets Who Teach* by Robin Behn**

Contemporary poets contribute exercises to help writers develop poems. The book is broken down into chapters on form, metaphor, structure, sound, rhythm, and reflection. With tips about how to overcome writers block, this book guides a novice poet through the steps of creating a poem.

Websites

American Academy of Poets

A great resource for teachers, students, and poets. Lists resources ranging from audio guides, podcasts, discussion forums, and reading recommendations from fellow poets. www.poets.org

Facebook

If you have an account for Facebook, search for Poetry Out Loud under groups to join the National network of participating students, teachers, and administrators of Poetry Out Loud. Meet participants from other states participating in Poetry Out Loud and stay connected through modern day technology! If you don't have one, sign up! www.facebook.com

Modern American Poetry

Critical and historical essays and syllabi on modern American Poetry. Many of the works relate to poems in the *Oxford Anthology of Modern American Poetry*. www.english.uiuc.edu/maps

MySpace

MySpace profile for Poetry Out Loud with pictures, videos, personal blog, interests, information about me and more! <http://www.myspace.com/neapoetryoutloud>

Poets & Writers

A great source for creative writers. The website offers information, support, and guidance for emerging poets, fiction, and creative non-fiction writers and funding for readings and workshops. www.pw.org

The Poetry Society

Non-profit organization devoted to fostering and promoting poetry in the US. Excerpts from *Crossroads* (official journal), sponsored events and information about poetry. www.poetrysociety.org

Arizona Commission on the Arts

The state arts agency whose mission is to help Arizonans broaden, deepen and diversify their engagement with the arts, as creators, audiences and supporters, in ways that are satisfying and integral to their lives. The Commission provides programs and services to artists and arts organizations throughout Arizona. www.azarts.gov

Poetry Resources

National Endowment for the Arts

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. The Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. www.nea.gov

Showup.com

ShowUp.com - the first and only definitive calendar of the Greater Phoenix region's arts and cultural events. Find upcoming literature events under the Poetry and Literature tab. www.showup.com

Organizations

NorAZ Poets

An organization of Northern Arizona poets who have created several programs in the community. The Alzheimer's Poetry Project is designed to help stimulate brain activity by using poetry that was read and memorized during the patient's younger years. The "Young Voices, Be Heard" series encourages students to create their own work with constructive feedback, writing exercises and performance coaching. www.norazpoets.org

Northern Arizona Book Festival

The Northern Arizona Book Festival promotes the union of literacy and the fine art of literature. The Festival brings a diverse group of authors to Flagstaff each year for a weekend of readings, workshops, panel discussions, and other literary events. www.nazbookfestival.org

The University of Arizona Poetry Center

The University of Arizona Poetry Center provides an extensive poetry library, free readings and lectures, community classes, poets-in-the-schools programs, poets-in-the-prisons programs, contests, exhibitions, and online resources. www.poetrycenter.arizona.edu

Tucson Poetry Festival

Every year in April, acclaimed poets from all over the country converge on Tucson to present their latest works, participate in panel discussions and conduct workshops on the literary art. www.tucsonpoetryfestival.org

Poetry Out Loud Contest Evaluation Sheet

Contest Evaluation Sheet

Name of Performer: _____

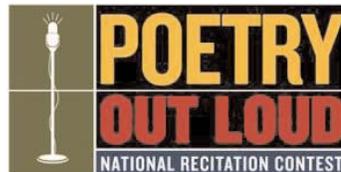
Title of Poem: _____

	Very Weak	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
Physical Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6
Voice and Articulation	1	2	3	4	5	6
Appropriateness of Dramatization	1	2	3	4	5	6
Level of Difficulty	1	2	3	4	5	6
Evidence of Understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall Performance	2	4	6	8	10	12

TOTAL: _____ (MAXIMUM of 42 points)

ACCURACY ADDITION: _____ (MAXIMUM of 8 points)

FINAL SCORE: _____



Sponsors



For more information about *Poetry Out Loud* Arizona, contact
Kim Willey at (602) 771-6521 or by email at kwilley@azarts.gov