



Poetry Out Loud Iowa

Bringing poetry to life for high school students for more than 20 years

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that inspires students in grades 9–12 to engage with poetry through memorization and recitation. Each year, thousands of students across the country participate, beginning in classrooms and schools before advancing through regional and state competitions. Iowa's state champion earns the opportunity to represent the state at the National Finals in Washington, D.C.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Poetry Out Loud helps students:

- Develop confidence in public speaking
- Build communication skills
- Improve reading comprehension and literary analysis
- Strengthen memorization and critical thinking skills
- Experience poetry in an engaging, interactive way

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program is open to Iowa students in grades 9–12 attending public, private, charter, tribal, or home schools. Eligible community organizations, libraries, and after-school programs may also participate.

HOW IT WORKS

Students select and memorize poems from the Poetry Out Loud anthology before participating in a contest at the classroom, school, or local level. Winners of these contests advance to the Iowa State Finals.

FREE RESOURCES

Participating schools receive access to:

- A curated online poetry anthology
- Teacher resources and program guidance
- Registration support throughout the year

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code for registration, resources, important dates, and more:



QUESTIONS?

Leslie Finer

UI Office of Community Engagement

(319)335-1618 | leslie-finer@uiowa.edu