Meet the Poets!
A Selection of Famous Poets & Poetry to Explore...

**Maya Angelou**

Poetry Collections:
- The Complete Collected Poems
- Phenomenal Woman: Four Poems
- Celebrating Women

Popular Poems:
- Caged Bird
- On the Pulse of Morning
- Still I Rise
- Touched by an Angel

See also her autobiographies, including: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

**Elizabeth Barrett Browning**
(1806-1861) English (Victorian) poet / translator / scholar (able to read Greek, Latin, Hebrew). Wife of poet Robert Browning.

Poetry Collections:
- Complete Collected Poems
  * Sonnets from the Portuguese

Popular poems:
- Aurora Leigh (a novel in verse)
- The Cry of the Children
- A Musical Instrument
  * Sonnet 43 ("How Do I Love Thee?")

Also explore her / Robert's letters [online at: www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/781]

**Billy Collins**

Poetry Collections:
- Aimless Love
- Sailing Alone Around the Room
- The Trouble with Poetry

Popular poems:
- Forgetfulness
- Introduction to Poetry
- Today

See also his "poem-a-day" anthology:
- Poetry 180: A Turning Back to poetry

**E. E. Cummings**

Poetry Collections:
- Complete Poems
- Essential E. E. Cummings (audio CD)

Famous poems:
- anyone lived in a pretty how town
- somewhere i have never travelled
- spring is like a perhaps hand

See also his autobiographical work:
- The Enormous Room

**Matsuo Basho**
(1644 - 1694) Japanese poet. Among the greatest / most influential haiku poets. He also wrote in other poetic forms.

Poetry Collections:
- Basho: The Complete Haiku
- The Essential Haiku: Versions...

Popular poems:
- Don't Imitate Me
- Even in Kyoto
- The Old Pond (his famous "frog poem")

See also his famous travel diary written in the "haibun" form (prose + haiku):
- The Narrow Road to the North

**Emily Dickinson**
(1830-1886). American poet celebrated today for her many brief and witty poems. While reclusive in later years, her letters reveal a lively and fascinating personality.

Poetry Collection:
- Complete Poems

Famous poems:
- After Great Pain, A Formal Feeling Comes
- I'm Nobody! Who Are You?
- Hope Is the Thing with Feathers
- The Poets Light But Lamps

Also explore her various collections of letters.

continued...
T. S. Eliot

Poetry collections:
- Collected Poems (1909 – 1962)
- Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats

Famous poems:
- Four Quartets
- The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock
- The Waste Land

Also explore his essay collections: The Sacred Wood, The Use of Poetry...

Robert Frost

Poetry Collection:
- The Poetry of Robert Frost

Famous poems:
- Acquainted with the Night
- Fire and Ice
- Mending Wall
- The Road Not Taken
- Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Also explore his plays and letters.

Langston Hughes

Poetry collection:
- Collected Poems of Langston Hughes

Famous poems:
- Democracy
- Dreams
- Harlem (his famous “dream deferred” poem)
- I Too Sing America

Also explore his plays, essays, novels, short stories, and children’s books.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Poetry collections:
- Collected Sonnets
- Renascence, and Other Poems

Famous poems:
- Apostrophe to Man
- Conscientious Objector
- Dirge Without Music
- Love Is Not All
- Renascence
- The Spring and the Fall

Pablo Neruda
(1904 - 1973) Chilean poet. Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Neruda wrote mostly in Spanish, but many translations of his numerous poetry collections exist.

Poetry collections / translations:
- The Essential Neruda - includes:
  - Veinte poemas de amor y una canción desesperada (Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair)
  - Odas elementales (Elemental Odes)
- The Poetry of Pablo Neruda - includes:
  - Cien sonetos de amor (100 Love Sonnets)

Rumi (Jalal al-Din Rumi)
(1207-1273) Persian poet and mystic. One of the oldest and popular poets in the world (for the past several centuries), Rumi is celebrated for his ecstatic verses meditating on life, love, joy, and more. His poetry has been translated into English.

Poetry collections / translations:
- The Essential Rumi
- The Illuminated Rumi
- Rumi: The Book of Love – Poems of Ecstasy and Longing

William Shakespeare
(1564 - 1616) English dramatist / poet. He wrote plays mostly in “blank verse” (unrhymed lines with five beats) and some of the most beautiful sonnets of all time.

Famous poems:
- Sonnets (He wrote over 150 sonnets!)
- Venus and Adonis

See also his plays: Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Othello, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest...

Also explore video or audio performances as well as criticism of his plays and poems.

Walt Whitman

Poetry collections:
- Complete Poems
- Leaves of Grass

Famous poems:
- O Captain! My Captain!
- Song of Myself
- Song of the Open Road
- When I Heard the Learned Astronomer

For more poets and poetic possibilities to explore, please visit our Reference Department or see these websites:

www.thrall.org/poetry
www.thrall.org/literature
www.thrall.org/litcrit