



## THE CONTEST

Nearly 4500 high schools across the country and 112 high schools in Pennsylvania participate in the annual Poetry Out Loud (POL) national recitation contest! Your high school or organization's champion will participate in the regional finals; the regional champion will participate in the state finals. Our region includes Northampton, Lehigh, Carbon, and Monroe counties.

Poetry Out Loud is a free program offered to every high school student in Pennsylvania. Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Studying literature, including poetry, practicing speaking, listening, language and reading skills strongly supports your district's curriculum. You may see the teachers' guide at: <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/teachers-organizers/>

- The teachers' guide offers suggestions so that you can customize the program to meet your time & schedule constraints.
- Teachers and students have access to the website and support materials that include nearly 800 poems, media guides and more.

### GETTING INVOLVED

- Complete the Intent to Participate form by December 6, 2023: [https://fest.formstack.com/forms/poetry\\_out\\_loud\\_2023\\_2024](https://fest.formstack.com/forms/poetry_out_loud_2023_2024)
- Go to [Organizing A Contest | Poetry Out Loud](#)
- Individual or groups of teachers, a school club, the entire school, or community organizations may participate.
- Organizers can determine the extent of their participation. For example, incorporate POL into a unit of study, perhaps culminating in recitations by each student in front of the class.
- Organizers can offer the program as an extra credit project or afterschool program's project, using the lesson plans offered in the online teacher's guide.
- Home-school or students unable to participate at a local school should contact their regional Poetry Out Loud coordinator to discuss other opportunities for inclusion.
- There must be one winner from your school or organization who will participate in the regional contest.

### WHAT MUST STUDENTS DO?

Choose a poem from the POL anthology to memorize and recite. Nearly 800 poems are online, some of the poems have been retired.

- Go to: [Search | Poetry Out Loud](#)
- Recitations may not include props, costumes, or music. Some gestures and minimal movement may, however, be appropriate to a given poem.

### THE WINNER

Each organization or school's winner will then participate in the regional contest scheduled for Wednesday, January 31st 2024 at 6:00 PM. The Region 5 Competition will be held at the ArtsQuest Center.

- Participants will prepare three (3) poems to recite.
- The regional winner will participate in the state competition in March.
- The state winner will receive \$200 and will get to compete in the national championship in May.
- The state winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend to purchase poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive \$100 with \$200 for his/her school to purchase poetry books.

### MORE INFORMATION

- Go to [poetryoutloud.org](https://poetryoutloud.org)
- Check out past year's Regional Competition: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmt1\\_p1Un84](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jmt1_p1Un84)
- Email Karley Schrey at [kschrey@artsquest.org](mailto:kschrey@artsquest.org) with any questions.