



101 Famous Poems

Roy J. Cook (Editor) , Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Contributor) , William Shakespeare (Contributor) , Walt Whitman (Contributor) , Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. (Contributor) , Phillips Brooks (Contributor) , Eugene Field (Contributor) , William Wordsworth (Contributor) , more... James Russell Lowell (Contributor) , Percy Bysshe Shelley (Contributor) , Ellen H. Gates (Contributor) , Emily Dickinson (Contributor) , Edward R. Sill (Contributor) , Thomas Buchanan Read (Contributor) , Maltbie Davenport Babcock (Contributor) , Cincinnatus Hiner Miller (Contributor) , Francis Miles Finch (Contributor) , Rudyard Kipling (Contributor) , Edmund Vance Cooke (Contributor) , Dante Gabriel Rossetti (Contributor) , Henry Van Dyke (Contributor) , Thomas Hood (Contributor) , Sidney Lanier (Contributor) , James Whitcomb Riley (Contributor) , William Herbert Carruth (Contributor) , Ella Wheeler Wilcox (Contributor) , John James Ingalls (Contributor) , John Burroughs (Contributor) , Leigh Hunt (Contributor) , Edgar Allan Poe (Contributor) , Thomas Gray (Contributor) , Alexander Anderson (Contributor) , John Milton (Contributor) , William Cullen Bryant (Contributor) , Ralph Waldo Emerson (Contributor) , William Ernest Henley (Contributor) , Edward Lear (Contributor) , Thomas Babington Macaulay (Contributor) , George Gordon Byron (Contributor) , John Greenleaf Whittier (Contributor) , Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (Contributor) , Walter Scott (Contributor) , Alice Cary (Contributor) , Robert Burns (Contributor) , Henry Holcomb Bennett (Contributor) , Alfred Tennyson (Contributor) , Frank L. Stanton (Contributor) , Francis William Bourdillon (Contributor) , Sam Walter Foss (Contributor) , Alan Seeger (Contributor) , John McCrae (Contributor) ...less

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Fully indexed by title, author, and first line, this much-loved collection, in print since 1916, is a wide-ranging collection of the best-known English language poets, from William Shakespeare Robert Frost, from Percy Bysshe Shelley to Edna St. Vincent Millay.

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From Reader Review 101 Famous Poems for online ebook

Casey Harris says

This is a book my dad always had on his bookshelf, and my brother was kind enough to get it for me for my birthday. Some of the poems in it are kind of questionable (not for content, just for general inclusion), but many of them are the classics: "If," by Kipling, Hamlet's soliloquy, "The Raven," by Poe, even the Gettysburg Address. Great stuff in here. This is one book that will be on my bookshelf for a long time, too.

Nancy says

"Preface: This is the age of science, of steel--of speed and the cement road, The age of hard faces and hard highways. Science and steel demand a medium of prose. Speed requires only the look--the gesture. What need then, for poetry?

Great need!"

The summer I turned eleven my family moved from Tonawanda, NY to Michigan. For several months we lived with my grandparents while my folks looked for a new house. All my possessions, save for my Barbie dolls, were in boxes in my grandparents' garage. I was a great reader and perused my grandfather's books for something to read. I found One Hundred and One Famous Poems and read it so often that my grandfather gave it to me.

The poems entertained me, taught me to love language, and extolled traditional American values of home, country, initiative, and community. I learned history. I learned about experiences very unlike my own.

My earliest favorite was Eugene Field's The Duel. Otherwise known by its protagonists, the Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat, who "side by side on the table sat." They started a fight that upset the Dutch Clock and the Chinese plate. Next morning there was no trace of dog or cat. "The truth about the cat and pup is this: they ate each other up!"

Now, if that does not warn against the horrible end of those who engage in senseless fights! (find the poem at <http://www.mamalisa.com/field/>)

The Spider and The Fly by Mary Howitt is a warning to beware falling victim to flattery. The spider entices a fly into "the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy" with "fine and thin sheets." When that does not work, the spider talks about the fly's 'robes of green and purple and eyes like the diamond bright.' She finally is seduced and enters...never to be seen again. The dear children are then warned to take a lesson and "unto an evil counselor close heart, and ear, and eye." <http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~aathavan...>

I loved the story poems. Especially Alfred Noye's The Highwayman, a romantic tale of the robber who loves Bess, the landlords' dark-eyed daughter. When the Redcoats tie Bess up and wait for the highwayman to return to her, she warns him by fingering the rifle trigger, sacrificing her own life. I adored the language of the poem: "The wind was a torrent of darkness among the gusty trees, the moon was a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas,/the road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor."

[http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/...](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/)

The language of Edgar Allen Poe's The Raven was also gorgeous. "It was in the bleak December, and each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor". "And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain /Thrilled me--filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before." I soon discovered a complete set of Poe on my grandfather's shelves and ended up taking them home permanently as well.

<http://www.eapoe.org/works/poems/rave...>

I suffered terrible nostalgia and homesickness for over two years after our move. Out To Old Aunt Mary's by James Whitcomb Riley allowed me to indulge my own fond remembrances of a childhood home so recently lost. He spoke of willow trees, which had surrounded my own home.

<http://www.jameswhitcombriley.com/you...>

Little Boy Blue by Eugene Field describes the vacant chair and waiting toys of the absent boy, who I did not realize was dead when I first read it; I thought he had grown up as I was growing up--quite against my wishes. The poem's sweet nostalgia transported me to my own future. And John Greenleaf Whittier's Barefoot Boy speaks of the lost freedom of childhood, lost to the "mills of toil."

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/...>

And the volume warned about the adult responsibilities and horrors that awaited.

Like War. Did the Light Brigade also have a 'rendezvous with death' when they charged forward? Was their death gentle, as Alan Seeger wrote? This was a world of poppies in Flanders' fields, and of grass-covered graves in Gettysburg so that people asked "what place is this" and did not remember the violence it had seen.

The suffering of the poor in Thomas Hood's Song of the Shirt, "with fingers weary and worn" a women in rags sewed "in poverty, hunger, and dirt." "It is not linen you're wearing bout,/But human creature's lives!"

<http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/h...>

And immediately follows Shakespeare's "The quality of mercy is not strained, it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven."

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/pr...>

What is our purpose on earth? Abou Ben Adhem asks the Angle if his name was in the book of those who loved the Lord and was told, "Nay, not so." He asks to "write me as one that loved his fellow men" and lo! his name led the list of those whom God had blessed. <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/...>

I was taught social consciousness.

The "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" may have given Hamlet pause. But every other poem condemns his indecision. "It isn't the fact you're dead that counts,/But only, how did you die?" asks Edmund Vance Cooke. "It's how did you fight and why' and "how did you take" the troubles life throws at you. "Come up with a smiling face, to lie there--that's disgrace."

<http://allpoetry.com/poem/8619995-How...>

"Be strong!" admonishes Maltbie Davenport Babcock, "we are not here to play, to dream, to drift: we have hard work to do and loads to life. Shun not the struggle--face it; 'tis God's gift."

<http://acacia.pair.com/Acacia.Vignett...>

"Taint no use to sit an' whine," Frank Stanton encourages in Keep a-Goin, "drain the sweetness from the cup.

<http://royceferguson.blogspot.com/201...>

"Yours is the Earth and everything in it!" Rudyard Kipling cries. "If you can dream, and not make dreams your master."

http://www.kipling.org.uk/poems_if.htm

"Act--act in the living Present!" proclaims Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in Psalm of Life. "We can makes our lives sublime/ And, departing leave behind us/Footprints on the sands of time!"<http://www.potw.org/archive/potw232.html>

Natural beauty was extolled in these poems.

"Poems are made by fools like me/But only God can make a tree." Joyce Kilmer will always be remembered for this simple poem. "What does he plant who plants a tree?" asked Henry Cuyler Bunner in The Heart of the Tree. "He plants the glory of the plain; He plants the forest's heritage, the harvest of a coming age;/ The joy that unborn eyes shall see--"

<http://www.theotherpages.org/poems/bu...>

William Wordsworth "wandered lonely as a cloud" and comes across "a crowd a host of golden daffodils" which like Shelley's skylark taught him gladness and "unbodied joy."

The book is tattered with bent edges and the paper cover of the book has separated from the spine. Yet it is one of my most treasured possessions, for it brought me to an early love of poetry.

The 1922 edition of One Hundred and One Famous Poems from The Cable Company is found at the Library of Congress and can be downloaded in many formats.

<http://archive.org/details/onehundred...>

Diana says

I've re-read this multiple times, it has many classical poems in it that I love like "Charge of the Light Brigade". I re-read parts of it again for my Western Civilization class to compare and contrast 3 poems of the First World War that are in it. The most well known one "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, also "I Have a Rendezvous with Death" by Alan Seeger, both who took part in the war and were killed in action. The final "The Spires of Oxford" by Winifred M. Letts who wrote about those who died in the war from the view of one left behind.

Rachel Hall says

I'm actually the third in my generation to own a copy of this book, so reading this was a rite of passage for me in a way. This collection is classic and has such a great breadth of styles and talents, and such a great selection of poetry that really is fundamental for any great reader who appreciates all genres of writing. It is inspiring and relaxing, and I highly recommend to anyone who is looking for a great poetry anthology!

Pharaba says

This will never be marked as 'finished reading' as it is one I pick up so often I am never truly done with it. My edition is missing a page from the prose, however. The page is there, it was just left blank. Is there anyone willing to share "Rules For Choosing Books"? I would love to at least insert it until I get a complete copy.

Annie M says

My favorite poem in this book is by Francis William Bourdillon, *The Night Has a Thousand Eyes*:

The night has a thousand eyes,
And the day but one;
Yet the light of the bright world dies
With the dying sun.
The mind has a thousand eyes,
And the heart but one;
Yet the light of a whole life dies
When love is done.

Cuddle Doon by Alexander Anderson was super cute and I love reading the old language style even though it's hard to understand since I don't know all of those words (and being old English they aren't all in the dictionary).

I also liked *Maud Muller* by John Greenleaf Whittier, *Home* by Edgar A Guest, *Solitude* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox, *Letter to a Young Friend* by Robert Burns, and *How Did You Die* by Edmund Vance Cooke.

It's cool that they have portraits of the authors of each poem too. Neat little book!

Diana Long says

A nice collection of poems, sonnets, odes and documents compiled by Mr. Cook. These are famous to be sure but only represent a small sampling of the many works written through time. This type of writing is in my opinion the most personally attached to that writer. Reading these types of work are personal as well. At one time or another I think we would pretty much concur that we all have had moments expressing or thoughts using this form.

Wayne Barrett says

*The night has a thousand eyes,
And the day but one;
Yet the light of the bright world dies
With the dying sun.*

*The mind has a thousand eyes,
And the heart but one;
Yet the light of a whole life dies
When love is done.*

~Francis William Bourdillon

This old poetry is not necessarily my cup of tea (throw some Bukowski in there with a cup of whiskey and we're talking) but I still rate this a solid 5. This is poetry in which you will find some of the most famous lines in history. This is poetry, but in a sense, it is a piece of history as well. The book is capped off with some famous historical documents.

Holly Lindquist says

Classic poetry anthology. If you buy one poetry collection in you lifetime, this one is a superb choice.

Philip says

My dad had a 1929 copy of this book. It's pretty sweet. It's got the best of the best inside. Whenever I would consider giving presents to people, this book would usually cross my mind. I've read most of it, but now I'm starting at the beginning and reading it through.

EDIT: And now I've finished it.

I have a lot of favorites. I love the multi-layered symbolism in "In Flanders Fields." The poppies being red, and an opiate and the fact that they introduce the poem and give it a sense of closure.

Kipling's "If" is a masterpiece, as are his other works in here. It's interesting to look at the timing of his personal life for when he wrote "The Gods of the Copybook Headings."

"Paul Revere's Ride" "Oh Captain My Captain"

"Horatius" was a pleasant surprise. I could never get into that poem before. I really liked it this time around.

Ken Moten says

I actually own a 1926 edition of this book and I have to say it contains some of the best classic poetry..along with some now mediocre poems favored in the old Victorian era. But for the most part the poetry and prose is good and this book is a good and interesting read.

This book is a historical treasure in how it shows what reading in the ante-depression era was like. It is filled to the brim with Romantic/transcendentalist authors as well as the Victorians, an almost disturbing amount of dead WWI casualties(in this respect I am reminded of the comments that often wonder "had not the Great War happened how many more great writers would the world have had?"), Shakespeare & some of his peers, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, and a "prose Supplement that includes: The Declaration of

Independence, Gettysburg Address, Letter To Mrs. Bixby, Magna Carta, The Ten Commandments, and Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death" speech.

To let you know how old this book is in context I believe Robert Frost and Edna St. Vincent Millay were the two youngest (at the that time living) poets to be featured in this anthology.

So I give this book my seal of approval and if you find it or even another old book like it than count yourself lucky.

Karen GoatKeeper says

Reading a book of poetry from cover to cover is never the ideal way to savor each poem. That aside, i am glad I finally did that with this book I've had on my book shelf for many years reading a poem here and a poem there.

The range of poets included is broad although all English or American. The poems range from traditional rhymed and metered to some free verse. Most of the poets are men. Almost all the poems have a picture of the poet and dates of birth and death by them. Some have comments after them about the poem as the one "Lincoln, the Man of the People" by Edwin Markham chosen to be read at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Some poems I did not like, some were all right, some I really liked. In future I would read a poem or two a day so I could reflect on each for a time.

For anyone not yet a poetry reader, this would be a nice book to start with because there is such a range of poems. I have ended up with some unexpected new favorites as well as revisiting some old favorites and look forward to reading another book of verse soon.

Jan says

Fun but outdated, and VERY white and male. Useful now mostly as a document of how tastes change.

Michelle says

I really want to like poetry more than I do.

Cory Schulz says

In print since 1916, this book of poetry contains a wide range of the best-known English poets, from William Shakespeare Robert Frost, to Percy Bysshe Shelley and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Roy Cook assembled this much-loved collection and indexed them by title, author, and first line of the poem. The poetry represents early American, and although the poems may not be familiar to kids, they reflect a less complicated world. Well-known American poets such as William Bryant, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Edgar Allan Poe's poems are included in this book. Other poets' poems included in the book are Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Edgar Lee Masters, and Carl Sandburg.

English poets included are Elizabeth and Robert Browning, Burns, Keats, Kipling, Milton, Sir Walter Scott, Shakespeare, Shelley, Tennyson, and Wordsworth. This book will be a “must” in my classroom. Besides being classics, the poems reflect patriotism, honesty, respect for others and loyalty.
