



## September 2023

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*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*  
- Robert Frost

Dear Florida Partners,

I have some exciting news to share below: ideas, poetry anthology, Poetry Out Loud (POL) guide, judges guide, and important dates. I appreciate the teachers who have met with me to learn more about POL or to learn how they incorporate POL. You can find some of these ideas in this newsletter. Please feel free to forward to your friends and colleagues who might be interested in POL or virtually introduce me to them.

Please email me any time if you have questions at [sbennet3@usf.edu](mailto:sbennet3@usf.edu) or [stp-poetryoutloud@usf.edu](mailto:stp-poetryoutloud@usf.edu).

Susan Bennett  
Poetry Out Loud Florida Coordinator

### Important Dates

**October 10, 2023**

Town Hall - Informational Session

**January 19, 2024**

Deadline to Register School's or Organization's Participation

**March 2, 2024**

Florida State Competition at University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus

**March 21, 2024**

Deadline for state champs and chaperones to register for National Finals

### Ideas for Students to Practice and to Motivate Them

Take students to an open mic at a local coffee house

Host own poetry open mic event

Have students practice at a local community organization (for example, senior citizens)

Inspire students with music lyrics first

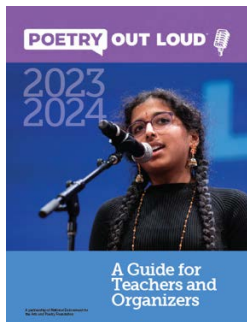
Help students create their own poetry using some of the poems as a model

## Poetry Anthology is Live!

The online anthology is updated for the 2023-24 cycle. For your reference, [here is a list of poems we added to the anthology and a list of ones removed](#). Please use the tabs along the bottom of the Excel spreadsheet to navigate both lists. And as always, poems included in the print anthology are also eligible for the 2023-24 competition ([here is a list of poems included in the print anthology](#)).

## 23-24 POL Guide for Teachers & Organizers

The [digital 2023-24 Guide for Teachers and Organizers](#) is now available. Here you can find more about the contest, evaluation and criteria, tips for contestants, rules, a sample schedule, and standards.



## 23-24 POL Judge's Guide

The [2023-24 POL Judge's Guide](#) is now available. Read this guide to understand what the judges will look for in your students' recitations.

Here are the changes made this year (these are also reflected in the teacher's guide):

- Clarification that mispronunciations **are not** accuracy errors.
- Name change of the criterion "Dramatic Appropriateness" to "Interpretation." This category remains the same in its description; however, we made the name change to this criterion based on feedback from the POL community and also to align ourselves with our international recitation contest counterparts who also name this category "Interpretation." We also feel this change more accurately describes the criterion and what the judges should be considering.