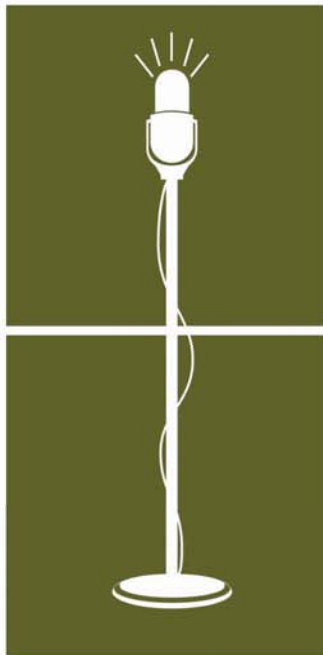


NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

*and*

POETRY FOUNDATION

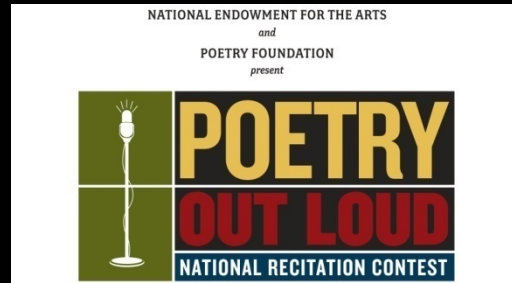
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**POETRY**

**OUT LOUD**

**NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST**

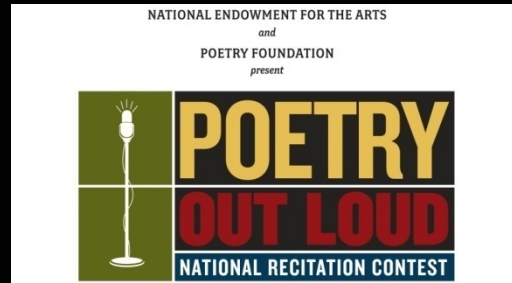


Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country.



## Why was Poetry Out Loud created?

- ❖ To introduce students to great classic and contemporary poetry
- ❖ To address the decreasing rate of literary reading among young people
- ❖ To encourage students to explore their literary heritage
- ❖ To help students develop life skills such as poise and public speaking



## What are the educational benefits for students?

- ❖ Increased literary knowledge
- ❖ Improved public speaking skills

## What are the benefits for schools?

- ❖ Positive visibility
- ❖ Enhanced school spirit

The Oregonian

abc NEWS

The  
Charlotte  
Observer

The★Star  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

THE WALL STREET  
JOURNAL.

The New York Times

TIME

Local, regional, and national media have all shown great interest through profiles of champions, coverage of school contests, and features of students “on the road to the National Finals.” Hundreds of news stories have reached millions since the first Poetry Out Loud contest in 2005.

Omaha  
World-Herald

The Des Moines Register

Hartford Courant.



The  
Philadelphia  
Inquirer



Portland Press Herald  
— est. 1862 —  
Maine Sunday Telegram

The Atlanta  
Journal-  
Constitution  
ajc.com

THE  
OKLAHOMAN

The Florida Times-Union

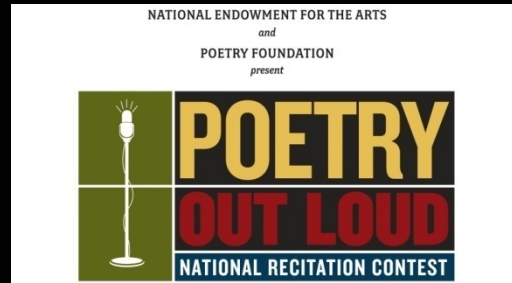
ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL



## What's the appeal for high school students?

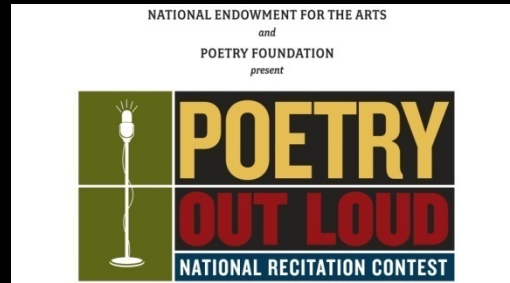
- ❖ Cash awards
- ❖ Participation builds confidence
- ❖ Students enjoy competition
- ❖ Students learn from one another



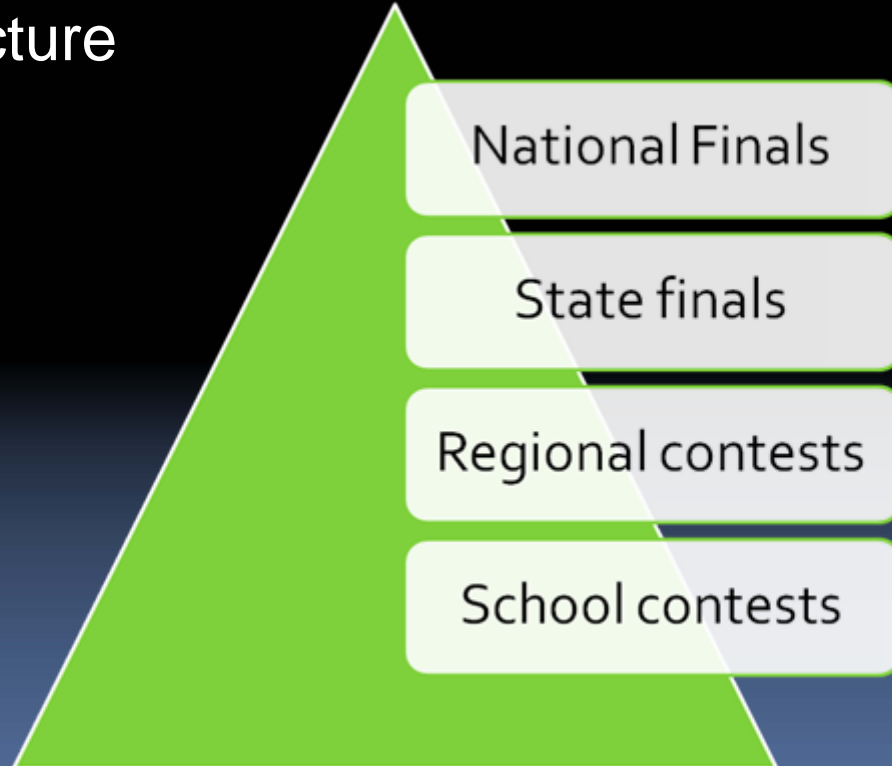


Poetry Out Loud appeals to many students

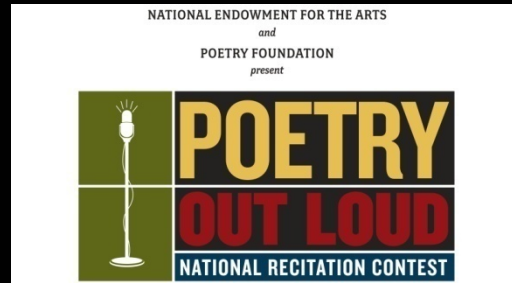




## Pyramid structure contest

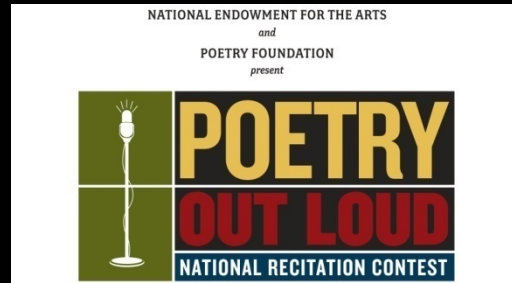






## State Finals Prizes

- ❖ Each state champion receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip (with a chaperone) to the National Finals in Washington, DC
- ❖ The first runner-up in each state receives \$100
- ❖ Schools of state champion and first runner-up receive stipends of \$500 and \$200 respectively for the purchase of poetry books



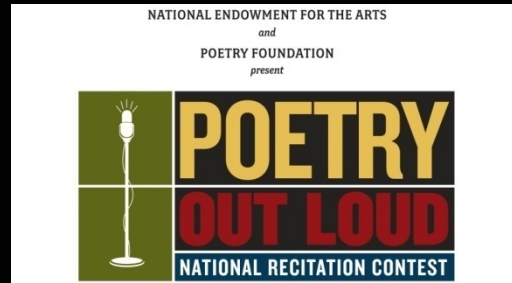
## National Finals Prizes

- ❖ \$20,000 for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion
- ❖ \$10,000 and \$5,000 for the second- and third-place finalists
- ❖ \$1,000 each for the other 9 top competitors
- ❖ \$500 stipends for schools of top 12 competitors to purchase poetry books



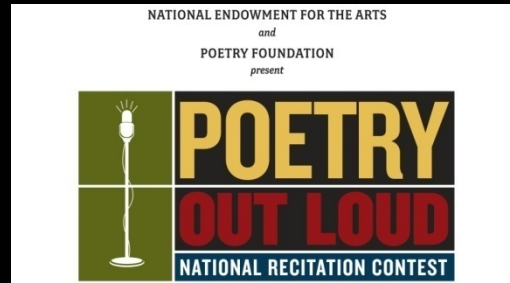
## What do teachers get?

- ❖ NCTE standards-based Teacher's Guide
- ❖ Website with resources for teachers and students ([poetryoutloud.org](http://poetryoutloud.org))
- ❖ Online and print anthology with 650+ poems
- ❖ Audio CD with sample readings
- ❖ Learning Recitation DVD with examples of best performances
- ❖ Promotional materials



## Poetry Out Loud Curriculum

- ❖ Satisfies most NCTE English Language Arts Standards
- ❖ Supplementary lesson plans with creative writing exercises
- ❖ Is designed to take place over 2-3 weeks
- ❖ Integrates easily with existing syllabi
- ❖ Can take place anytime between fall and early winter
- ❖ Will not require full class periods



## Website tools for teachers

- ❖ Poetryoutloud.org
- ❖ Poetry anthology
- ❖ Teacher's Guide
- ❖ Audio and video clips
- ❖ Lesson plans
- ❖ Judge's guide
- ❖ Tips on hosting a contest

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS & POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT**  
**POETRY OUT LOUD**  
**NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST**

**Partners:** National Endowment for the Arts, The Poetry Foundation, State Arts Agencies

**About The Program**  
 Welcome to Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud is administered in partnership with the State Arts Agencies of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.  
[Read More](#) [How to Participate](#)

**Today's Featured Poet**  
**Ezra Pound**  
 Ezra Pound (1895-1972) was born in Hailey, Idaho, grew up near Philadelphia, but lived much of his adult life overseas. In his early career he was the influential and a controversial leader of Imagism and Vorticism. He also championed young writers, including W.D., T.S. Eliot, and Robert Frost. Among his best-known works are "In a Station"  
[More »](#)

**Poems**  
 A Virginal  
 Envoi  
 The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter

**FOR TEACHERS**  
 State Lesson Plans  
 Teacher's Guide  
 Teacher FAQ  
 NCTE Standards  
 Academic needs  
 Disabilities  
 English Literacy  
 Resources  
 Teacher Quizzes  
 Teacher Feedback

**FOR STUDENTS**  
 Find a Poem  
 Poem of the Week  
 Student FAQ  
 Student Comments

**NEWS & EVENTS**  
 National Poem  
 Press Releases  
 Events Calendar  
 Media Contacts  
 News Clips  
 Photo Library  
 Download Graphics

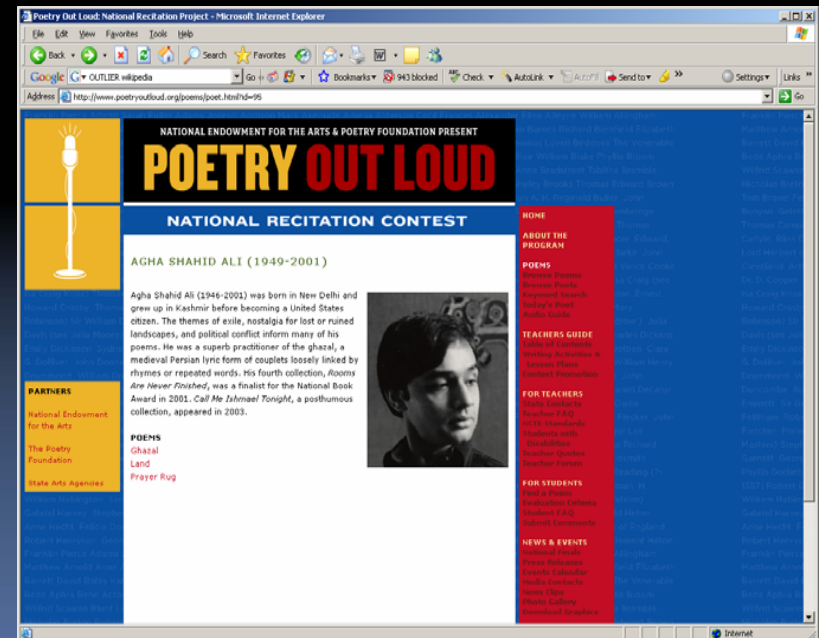
**FOR STATE PARTNERS**  
 Program Resources  
 State Partner FAQ  
 Poem Blending  
 Download Graphics  
 SAA Forum

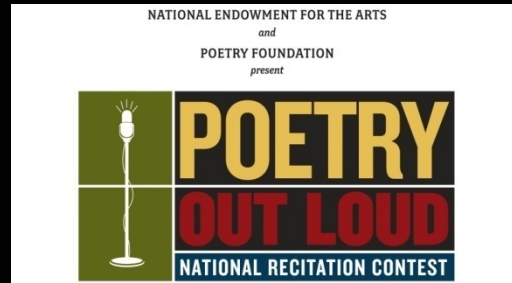
**STATE CONTACTS**



## Website tools for students

- ❖ 'Find a poet' search tool
- ❖ 'Find a poem' search tool
- ❖ Daily 'featured poet' section with biographies and poems

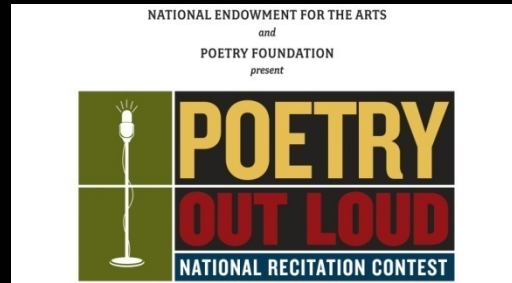




## Learning Recitation DVD

- ❖ Videotaped performances show a range of strong poetry recitations
- ❖ Helps students learn criteria for successful poetry recitation
- ❖ Shows how memorization helps us understand poetry

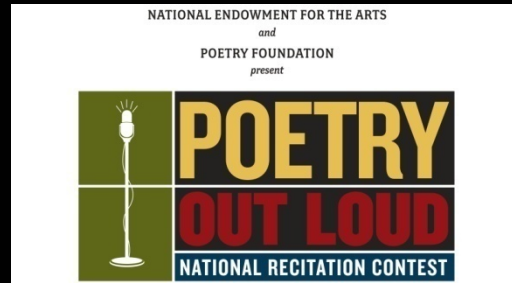




## Audio Guide

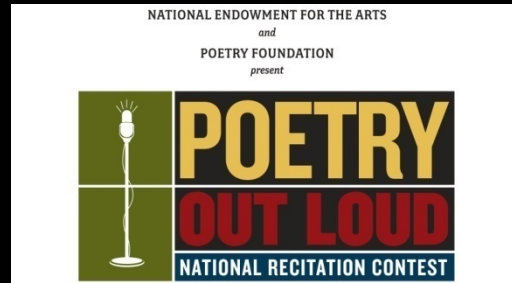
- ❖ Free audio CD on performing poetry (also available online)
- ❖ Readings by well-known actors and writers including James Earl Jones, Rita Dove, and Anthony Hopkins





## Timeline

SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
							Nat'l Final
						State contests (held by March 21, 2011)	April 27-29, 2011
Classroom and school-level contests							



## State Arts Agencies role

- ❖ Define scope of state program
- ❖ Recruit schools to participate in official state contest
- ❖ Coordinate state program and state final event
- ❖ Partner with local arts organizations to administer program as needed

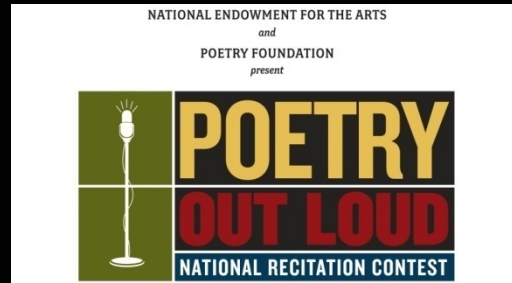


## Teacher testimonials

*"I was wary of using recitation and memorization in the classroom, but this program helped me to understand that it is such an important part of poetry .... I'm planning to use more recitation and memorization next year in my classes."*

*"I loved engaging students in an English/academic activity that gave them an opportunity for recognition for something besides athletics!"*

*"I have worked with students reading far below grade level. For them, though they felt great trepidation about presenting even in front of their own class, Poetry Out Loud was a novel experience. Their self confidence soared once they realized that they could present aloud in front of their peers."*



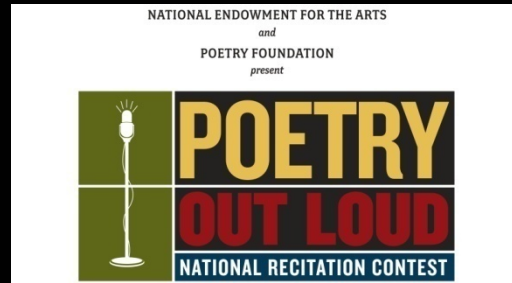
## Student testimonials

*"I gained confidence in myself. If I can do something like that, I can excel in other things, too."*

*"When you have to recite a poem, you make it your own."*

*"I'm not your typical athlete anymore. I now recite poetry."*

*"Sometimes the biggest accomplishment is conquering your fear."*



## Get involved!

- ❖ Visit [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)
- ❖ Contact the state arts agency representative listed on the website
- ❖ Schools that are not selected to take part in the official state contest can host unofficial contests using Poetry Out Loud online resources





Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the State and Jurisdictional Arts Agencies of the United States.