



September 2017

Dear Ohio High School Teacher,

Could you use a free way to refresh your required poetry unit and meet your teaching benchmarks at the same time? Are you in need of a new approach to engaging indifferent students? Wishing you could create a culture of poetry at your school? Interested in providing a public speaking experience for your students that deepens their grasp of language? Would you also like to demonstrate your community involvement outside the classroom? *Poetry Out Loud* (POL) will help you accomplish all of this, and more.

The Ohio Arts Council is inviting all Ohio high schools to register now for *Poetry Out Loud* National Recitation Contest, a free national program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and administered in Ohio by the Ohio Arts Council. *POL* is entirely free to participating schools: we provide registered teachers with free multi-media poetry curriculum materials, training workshops and the services of a coordinator. The contest, also free, has a pyramid structure, beginning in the classroom and culminating in an exciting national competition with \$50,000 in prize money at stake. Participating students compete by selecting poems to memorize and recite from a large online anthology. Their recitations are scored in six categories using a national rubric. Last year more than 8000 students and 100 high school teachers participated in Ohio.

We are offering a free, no-obligation teacher-training workshop, with poet and former POL judge Ray McNiece. The workshop will be held on October 25th at the Memorial Nottingham Branch of the Cleveland Public Library from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The location is 17109 Lake Shore Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44110. CEU credits are offered. We encourage interested teachers to call or email if they wish to attend. We also accept walk-ins.

POL aims to expose students to our shared literary heritage in poetry, and to improve their public speaking skills. It also helps teachers meet required NCTE and Common Core benchmarks in close reading, text analysis, and practice with complex texts, speaking, and listening. Choosing and learning a poem by heart, and then reciting it for an audience, has been a transformative experience for many students, with lasting benefits in their deeper understanding of language.

Registration for Poetry Out Loud is conveniently online at <http://www.oac.ohio.gov/poetryoutloud>. Scroll down to click on "Register." For more information about *Poetry Out Loud*, visit the national website at www.poetryoutloud.org.

Workshop registration is easy – just contact us by phone (see below) or by email at cle.pol@cpl.org.

Thank you and we hope to hear from you!

Cordially,

Kisha Nicole Foster
Poetry Out Loud Fellow/ Cleveland/Northeast Ohio Regional Coordinator
Literature Department
Ohio Center for the Book @ Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Ave. N.E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
[Cle.pol@cpl.org](mailto:cle.pol@cpl.org) or kisha.foster@cpl.org
www.cpl.org
216.623.2881

