

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT

POETRY

**OUT
LOUD**



**2025
New York
State Final**



MARCH 15, 2025
FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
NEW YORK CITY



Council on
the Arts

TEACHERS
& WRITERS
COLLABORATIVE



Program

Opening Remarks

Asari Beale, Executive Director, Teachers & Writers Collaborative

Christine Leahy, Arts Program Director, New York State Council on the Arts

Poetry Out Loud Competition

Round I

Round II

Intermission

Poetry Out Loud Competition

Round III

Closing Ceremony

Reception



Emcee

Twinkle Burke

Writer, actor, and educator

Judges & Scorekeeper

Javan Howard

Poet, writer, and Co-Director of the Teaching Artist Project, Community Word Project

Judith Ohikuare

Poet, fiction writer, and Membership & Marketing Manager, The Center for Fiction

DS Waldman

Poet, educator, and author of the poetry collection *Atria* (Liveright/WW Norton, 2026)

Anna Schwartzman

Writer, educator, and Managing Editor, *Circumference* literary magazine

Joshua Garcia

Poet and Office Manager/Managing Editor, Teachers & Writers Collaborative

2025 New York State Finalists

Students and poems are listed in the order of appearance. All finalists will recite in Rounds I and II in random order. The students with the five highest scores at the end of Round II will move on to Round III.

ROUND I

Yaheli Cruz

Abandoned Farmhouse by Ted Kooser

Victoria Awadallah

American Smooth by Rita Dove

Savir Peri

Let the Light Enter
by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Allison MacCallum

Anthem for Doomed Youth
by Wilfred Owen

Aubrey Cushman

When You Are Old
by William Butler Yeats

Ella Blair

Water of the womb by Tianna Bratcher

Jane Kitch-Willis

The Collar by George Herbert

Paloma Arena

To Fashion by Elizabeth Moody

Jeshua Wilkinson

A Virginal by Ezra Pound

Carter Musa

Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night
by Dylan Thomas

Ellen Kramer

Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight
by Vachel Lindsay

Lauren Whitley

The World Is Too Much with Us
by William Wordsworth

Rachel Ezeadichie

The Children's Hour
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Lillian Liu

Meanwhile by Richard Siken

Isabelle Scherl

*Miss you. Would like to grab that chilled
tofu we love.* by Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Ana Sandu

Siren Song by Margaret Atwood

Jade Wolff

England in 1819 by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Angela Bediako

Echo by Daryl Hine

Christelle Stanley

This Is Not a Small Voice
by Sonia Sanchez

ROUND II

Jeshua Wilkinson

Brother, I've Seen Some by Kabir

Carter Musa

Shall earth no more inspire thee
by Emily Brontë

Paloma Arena

American Solitude by Grace Schulman

Isabelle Scherl

We Lived Happily During the War
by Ilya Kaminsky

Yaheli Cruz

We Are Not Responsible
by Harryette Mullen

Angela Bediako

The World Is Too Much with Us
by William Wordsworth

Lauren Whitley

Banneker by Rita Dove

Aubrey Cushman

War Widow by Chris Abani

Ana Sandu

Epitaph by Katherine Philips

Jane Kitch-Willis

Harold & the Purple Crayon by D. Gilson

Christelle Stanley

The Affliction of Richard
by Robert Bridges

Allison MacCallum

Epitaph by Katherine Philips

Jade Wolff

I Am the People, the Mob
by Carl Sandburg

Rachel Ezeadichie

In Praise of My Bed by Meredith Holmes

Savir Peri

*On Listening to Your Teacher Take
Attendance* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Ellen Kramer

The Arrow and the Song
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Ella Blair

Revenge by Letitia Elizabeth Landon

Victoria Awadallah

Grief by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Lillian Liu

On the Death of Anne Brontë
by Charlotte Brontë

ROUND III

Paloma Arena

Where did the handsome beloved go?
by Jalal Al-Din Rumi

Victoria Awadallah

Rain by Kazim Ali

Angela Bediako

What the Oracle Said
by Shara McCallum

Ella Blair

The Bug by Tommye Blount

Yaheli Cruz

Invictus by William Ernest Henley

Aubrey Cushman

What the Oracle Said
by Shara McCallum

Rachel Ezeadichie

How to Write a Poem by Laura Hershey

Jane Kitch-Willis

Larkinesque by Michael Ryan

Ellen Kramer

It was not Death, for I stood up
by Emily Dickinson

Lillian Liu

The Legend by Garrett Hongo

Allison MacCallum

American Smooth by Rita Dove

Carter Musa

The Conqueror Worm by Edgar Allan Poe

Savir Peri

The Lamb by Linda Gregg

Ana Sandu

The Layers by Stanley Kunitz

Isabelle Scherl

*When I Have Fears that I May Cease
to Be* by John Keats

Christelle Stanley

We Are Not Responsible
by Harryette Mullen

Lauren Whitley

mulberry fields by Lucille Clifton

Jeshua Wilkinson

300 Goats by Naomi Shihab Nye

Jade Wolff

Siren Song by Margaret Atwood

Poetry Out Loud is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. In New York State, Poetry Out Loud is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts and is presented by Teachers & Writers Collaborative. Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry—both classic and contemporary—through memorization, performance, and competition. Since the program began in 2005, Poetry Out Loud has grown to reach more than 4.4 million students and 81,000 teachers from 20,000 schools and organizations in every state, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

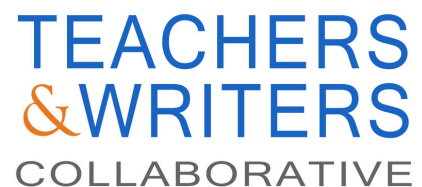
Students participating in the 2025 Poetry Out Loud New York State Final are the winners from 10 regional semifinal competitions that took place across the state. The winner will go on to represent New York State at the national Poetry Out Loud finals in Washington, D.C., from May 5 - 7, 2025.

Special thanks to the following for their contributions to 2025 Poetry Out Loud in New York State:

Adirondack Center for Writing
The Hudson Valley Writers Center
The Hudson Valley Writing Project
Simon & Schuster
The State University of New York
Stony Brook University
The Walt Whitman Birthplace Association
The Western New York Writing Project



Learn more about Poetry Out Loud at:
twc.org/poetry-out-loud and
poetryoutloud.org
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2025 Poetry Out Loud New York State Final Schools & Cities

Students participating in the 2025 Poetry Out Loud New York State Final represent the following schools and cities.

Byron-Bergen Junior-Senior High School, Bergen – Jade Wolff

Cazenovia High School, Cazenovia – Ella Blair

Cornwall Central High School, New Windsor – Ellen Kramer

Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School, Brooklyn – Christelle Stanley

Homeschool, Saranac – Jeshua Wilkinson

Jamestown High School, Jamestown – Allison MacCallum

Jamesville-DeWitt High School, DeWitt – Paloma Arena

Little River Community School, Canton – Aubrey Cushman

Monroe-Woodbury High School, Central Valley – Yaheli Cruz

Saint Francis Preparatory School, Fresh Meadows – Victoria Awadallah

Saratoga Springs High School, Saratoga Springs – Ana Sandu

Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale – Lillian Liu*

Schenectady High School, Schenectady – Jane Kitch-Willis

Shoreham-Wading River High School, Shoreham – Isabelle Scherl

Syosset High School, Syosset – Lauren Whitley & Savir Perry

Valley Stream North High School, Franklin Square – Rachel Ezeadichie

White Plains High School, White Plains – Angela Bediako

Whitesboro High School, Marcy – Carter Musa