



## San Mateo County's Poetry Out Loud 2025

*"No matter who you are, where you come from, or what your story is, there is some poem out there you can connect with."*

Poetry Out Loud (POL) inspires in high school students and teens the confidence to make themselves heard, using one of the most powerful tools at their disposal—poetry. It encourages teens to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Participants master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

**And the best part about POL, it's fun and easy to participate.**

1. Go to the **POL website**, download the **teacher's guide** that includes lesson plans and ways to integrate poetry in your curriculum [www.poetryoutloud.org/teachers-organizers/](http://www.poetryoutloud.org/teachers-organizers/).
2. View video of past participants and poem selections [www.poetryoutloud.org/](http://www.poetryoutloud.org/)
3. Have **students to choose 2-3 poems**, start memorizing, and have fun!
4. Notify Mara Grimes [mgrimes@smcgov.org](mailto:mgrimes@smcgov.org) that your class or organization would like to participate by **Dec. 3, 2024**. You will receive information on how to proceed.
5. If you do not want to participate as a group/class but have teens that are interested, they can sign up @ [bit.ly/PoetryOutLoud2025](http://bit.ly/PoetryOutLoud2025).
6. Coaching sessions will be available to a limited number of students from each school or organization to be held in **January 2025 via Zoom**.
7. The County competition will take place on **February 4, 2025**.

*"Before I began this process, poetry seemed foreign and inaccessible, but now it is an art with which I can connect and appreciate more fully."*

