

# Morse High School Library

## Poetic Prospective: Free Verse Novels

Adoff, Jaime. ***The Death of Jayson Porter***. (FIC ADOFF)

In the Florida projects, sixteen-year-old Jayson struggles with the harsh realities of his life which include an abusive mother, a drug-addicted father, and not fitting in at his predominately white school, and bring him to the brink of suicide.

Adoff, Jaime. ***Jimi & Me***. (FIC ADOFF)

After his father's tragic death, twelve-year-old Keith James moves from Brooklyn to a small midwestern town where his mixed race heritage is not accepted, but he finds comfort in the music of Jimi Hendrix and the friendship of a white classmate.

Adoff, Jaime. ***Names Will Never Hurt Me***. (FIC ADOFF)

Several high school students relate their feelings about school, themselves, and events as they unfold on the fateful one-year anniversary of the killing of a fellow student.

Barlow, Toby. ***Sharp Teeth***. (FIC BARLOW)

Dogcatcher, Anthony, has no idea that his girlfriend is a werewolf who has abandoned her pack, but her efforts to keep her secret lead to murderous results.

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. ***Frida: ¡Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!*** (811 BER)

A collection of biographical poems about the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, accompanied by reproductions of her paintings.

Block, Francesca Lia. ***Psyche in a Dress***. (FIC BLOCK)

A young woman, Psyche, searches for her lost love and questions her true self in a modern retelling of Greek myths.

Bryant, Jen. ***A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams***. (811 BRY)

An illustrated biography of American poet William Carlos Williams, who studied to become a doctor, but still found time to write poetry.

Burg, Ann E. ***All the Broken Pieces***. (FIC BURG)

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and, now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Carson, Jo. ***Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet***. (811 CAR)

Presents fifty-four monologues and dialogues based on episodes of everyday life in east Tennessee and the Appalachian region.

Chaltas, Thalia. ***Because I Am Furniture***. (FIC CHALTAS)

The youngest of three siblings, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected that her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action.

Cormier, Robert. ***Frenchtown Summer***. (FIC CORMEIR)

A series of vignettes in free verse in which the writer reminisces about his life as a twelve-year-old boy living in a small town during the hot summer of 1938.

Corrigan, Eireann. ***Splintering***. (FIC CORRIGAN)

Relates, in a series of poems from different perspectives, the events and after-effects of an intruder's violent attack on a family.

Corrigan, Eireann. ***You Remind Me of You: A Poetry Memoir***. (FIC CORRIGAN)

A collection of poems in which the author details her struggle with eating disorders and her changed outlook on life after the suicide attempt of her boyfriend.

Crisler, Curtis L. ***Tough Boy Sonatas***. (811.6 CRI)

A collection of nearly forty poems that explores the struggles and joys of poor African-American boys in Gary, Indiana, reflecting the difficult circumstances they face.

Darrow, Sharon. ***Trash***. (FIC DARROW)

Graffiti artists Sissy Lexie and younger brother Boy try to maintain a sense of family while living in a series of foster homes and staying with their older sister, until a tragic accident forces Sissy to make decisions about her future.

Engle, Margarita. ***The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano***. (811.54 ENG)

A portrait in poems of Juan Francisco Manzano, the poet who was born a slave in Cuba in 1797.

Engle, Margarita. ***The Surrender Tree: Poem of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom***. (811 ENG)

A collection of poems in which Rosa, a healer, describes her experiences trying to help Cuban peasants who have been forced to leave their farms and villages in 1896 and given eight days to find their way to "reconcentration camps" or be killed.

Fehler, Gene. ***Beanball***. (FIC FEHLER)

Relates, from diverse points of view, events surrounding the critical injury of popular and talented high school athlete, Luke "Wizard" Wallace, when he is hit in the face by a fastball.

Fields, Terri. ***After the Death of Anna Gonzales***. (811.54 FIE)

Poems written in the voices of forty-seven people, including students, teachers, and other school staff, record the aftermath of a high school student's suicide and the preoccupations of teen life.

Frost, Helen. ***Crossing Stones***. (FIC FROST)

The outbreak of WWI impacts the teens of two farm families living on opposite sides of a rural Michigan creek. Frank and Ollie, who lies about his age, are sent to the front. Emma is content to help on the farm but independent Muriel, while helping her suffragette aunt recover from a hunger strike in Washington, D.C., discovers there is much to see and learn beyond the farm.

Frost, Helen. ***Spinning Through the Universe: A Novel in Poems from Room 214***. (811 FRO)

A collection of poems written in the voices of Mrs. Williams of room 214, her students, and a custodian about their interactions with each other, their families, and the world around them. Includes notes on the poetic forms represented.

Fullerton, Alma. ***Walking on Glass***. (FIC FULLERTON)

A teenage boy recounts, in a free verse journal, his attempts to come to terms with the realities of his mother's near-death coma.

Glenn, Mel. ***Back to Class***. (811 GLE)

An illustrated collection of sixty-five poems describing the feelings, insights, and aspirations of a variety of high school students and their teachers.

Glenn, Mel. ***Class Dismissed!*** (811 GLE)

Seventy poems about the emotional lives of contemporary high school students.

Glenn, Mel. ***Class Dismissed II***. (811 GLE)

Another seventy poems about the emotional lives of contemporary high school students

Glenn, Mel. ***Foreign Exchange: A Mystery in Poems*** (811 GLE)

A series of poems reflect the thoughts of various people- town residents young and old, teachers, and some students visiting from the city- caught up in the events surrounding a murder.

Glenn, Mel. ***Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems***. (811 GLE)

Tells the story of a high school basketball team's season through a series of poems reflecting the feelings of students, their families, teachers, and coaches.

Glenn, Mel. ***Who Killed Mr. Chippendale?: A Mystery in Poems***. (811 GLE)

Free verse poems describe the reactions of students, colleagues, and others when a high school teacher is shot to death as the school day begins.

Grimes, Nikki. ***Dark Sons***. (FIC GRIMES)

Alternating poems compare and contrast the conflicted feelings of Ishmael, son of the Biblical patriarch Abraham, and Sam, a teenager in New York City, as they try to come to terms with being abandoned by their fathers and with the love they feel for their younger stepbrothers.

Grimes, Nikki. ***A Girl Named Mister***. (FIC GRIMES)

A pregnant teenager finds support and forgiveness from God through a book of poetry presented from the Virgin Mary's perspective.

Hemphill, Stephanie. ***Things Left Unsaid: A Novel in Poems***. (FIC HEMPHILL)

After a lifetime of conforming to the image of what her parents and high school friends want her to be, Sarah must come to terms with her own identity when her destructive best friend tries to commit suicide. Told in the form of free-verse poems.

Hemphill, Stephanie. ***Wicked Girls: A Novel of the Salem Witch Trials***. (FIC HEMPHILL)

A fictionalized account, told in verse, of the Salem witch trials, told from the perspective of three young women living in Salem in 1692--Mercy Lewis, Margaret Walcott, and Ann Putnam, Jr.

Hemphill, Stephanie. ***Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath***. (811 HEM)

A series of poems that provide a chronological portrait of the life of Sylvia Plath, told in the voices of family members, friends, associates, and others who knew her.

Herrick, Steven. ***By the River***. (FIC HERRICK)

A fourteen-year-old describes, through prose poems, his life in a small Australian town in 1962, where, since their mother's death, he and his brother have been mainly on their own to learn about life, death, and love.

Herrick, Steven. ***The Simple Gift***. (FIC HERRICK)

Sixteen-year-old Billy runs away from his alcoholic, abusive father and takes up residence in an abandoned freight car where he meets Old Bill, a fellow hobo, and together they form a friendship based on small kindnesses that change their lives.

Herrick, Steven. ***The Wolf***. (FIC HERRICK)

Sixteen-year-old Lucy, living in the shadow of her violent father, experiences a night of tenderness, danger, and revelation as she and Jake, her fifteen-year-old neighbor, search for a legendary wolf in the Australian outback.

Hesse, Karen. ***Witness***. (FIC HESSE)

A series of poems express the views of various people in a small Vermont town, including a young black girl and a young Jewish girl, during the early 1920s when the Ku Klux Klan is trying to infiltrate the town.

Hesse, Karen. ***Out of the Dust***. (FIC HESSE)

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her father's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

High, Linda Oatman. ***Sister Slam and the Poetic Motormouth Road Trip***. (FIC HIGH)

In this novel told in slam verse, best friends and aspiring poets Laura and Twig embark on a road trip after graduating from high school, from Pennsylvania to New York City, to compete at slam poetry events.

Hopkins, Ellen. ***Burned***. (FIC HOPKINS)

Seventeen-year-old Pattyn, the eldest daughter in a large Mormon family, is sent to her aunt's Nevada ranch for the summer, where she temporarily escapes her alcoholic, abusive father and finds love and acceptance, only to lose everything when she returns home.

Hopkins, Ellen. ***Crank***. (FIC HOPKINS)

Kristina Georgia Snow's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank", becomes addicted, and is led down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life.

Hopkins, Ellen. ***Fallout***. (FIC HOPKINS)

Written in free verse, explores how three teenagers try to cope with the consequences of their mother's addiction to crystal meth and its effects on their lives.

Hopkins, Ellen. ***Identical***. (FIC HOPKINS)

Sixteen-year-old identical twin daughters of a district court judge and a candidate for the United States House of Representatives, Kaeleigh and Raeanne Gardella desperately struggle with secrets that have already torn them and their family apart.

Hopkins, Ellen. ***Tricks***. (FIC HOPKINS)

Collects five stories about three girls and two boys who question how they feel about themselves while learning about love and sexuality.

Janeczko, Paul B. ***Worlds Afire***. (811 JAN)

In this novel written as a collection of eyewitness poems, the excitement and anticipation of attending the circus on July 6, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut, turns to horror when a fire engulfs the circus tent, killing nearly 180 people, mostly women and children.

Koertge, Ron. ***The Brimstone Journals***. (811.54 KOE)

In a series of short interconnected poems, students at a high school nicknamed Brimstone reveal the violence existing and growing in their lives.

Koertge, Ron. ***Shakespeare Bats Cleanup***. (811.54 KOE)

When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

Levithan, David. ***The Realm of Possibility***. (FIC LEVITHAN)

A variety of students at the same high school describe their ideas, experiences, and relationships in a series of interconnected free verse stories.

LeZotte, Ann Clare. ***T4***. (FIC LEZOTTE)

After the Nazi party takes control of Germany, thirteen-year-old Paula, who is deaf, is forced to go into hiding because of Adolf Hitler's Tiegartenstrasse 4--T4--which was put in place to kill any mentally ill or disabled people.

Major, Kevin. ***Ann and Seamus***. (811.54 MAJ)

Relates the story of seventeen-year-old Ann Harvey and her attempt to help rescue over one hundred sixty passengers from the Irish immigrant ship "Despatch" after it ran aground off the coast of Newfoundland. Presented in poetry form.

McCormick, Patricia. ***Sold***. (FIC MCCORMICK)

A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India.

McEntyre, Marilyn Chandler. ***The Color of Light: Poems on Van Gogh's Late Paintings***. (811 MCE)

A collection of poems by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre that were inspired by the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh, and includes selections entitled "The Olive Trees," "The Starry Night," "What Happened When He Looked," and others.

McEntyre, Marilyn Chandler. ***Drawn to the Light: Poems on Rembrandt's Religious Paintings***. (811 MCE)

A collection of poems by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre that were inspired by the religious paintings of Rembrandt and are accompanied by reproductions of his work.

McEntyre, Marilyn Chandler. ***In Quiet Light: Poems on Vermeer's Women***. (811 MCE)

Presents twenty paintings--mostly of women--by seventeenth-century Dutch artist Jan Vermeer along with poems inspired by them, composed by American writer Marilyn Chandler McEntyre.

Merrell, Billy. ***Talking in the Dark: A Poetry Memoir***. (811 MER)

Presented in free verse, Billy Merrell explores themes of love, sadness, sexuality, and happiness.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Here in Harlem***. (811.54 MYE)

Presents fifty-four poems by Walter Dean Myers, written in the voices of people living and working in Harlem, the author's beloved hometown.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Street Love***. (FIC MYERS)

This story told in free verse is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.

Nelson, Marilyn. ***Carver: A Life in Poems***. (811.54 NEL)

A collection of poems that combine to provide a portrait of the life of nineteenth-century African-American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver.

Nelson, Marilyn. ***Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem***. (811 NEL)

A series of poems on the life of Fortune, an eighteenth-century African-American slave in New England whose skeleton came to be an exhibit at Connecticut's Mattatuck Museum.

Nelson, Marilyn. ***A Wreath for Emmett Till***. (811 NEL)

This illustrated poetry collection eulogizes Emmett Till, an African American man who was killed in a brutal, racially motivated lynching in 1955.

Roy, Jennifer. ***Yellow Star***. (FIC ROY)

From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Boris***. (811.54 RYL)

The story of Boris, the big gray cat, who is loved by his owner, is told in this free verse book.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Ludie's Life***. (811.54 RYL)

A collection of poems that tell the story of Ludie, a poor woman in a coal-mining town in West Virginia, from her childhood to her adolescent years, and then through her married life into her old age.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Soda Jerk***. (811.54 RYL)

A series of poems spoken by a young soda jerk in a small town as he observes the people and places around him.

Sandell, Lisa Ann. ***The Weight of the Sky***. (FIC SANDELL)

A sixteen-year-old girl travels to Israel to spend the summer on a kibbutz and discovers who she is and what she wants out of life.

Schroeder, Lisa. ***I Heart You, You Haunt Me***. (FIC SCHROEDER)

A free verse novel in which fifteen-year-old Ava, feeling guilty over the role she believes she played in her boyfriend Jackson's death, experiences a whole new range of emotions when she realizes he is back from the dead.

Schutz, Samantha. ***I Don't Want to Be Crazy***. (811.6 SCH)

A poetry memoir in which the author tells of the pressures that led her to suffer debilitating anxiety attacks and the path she took to coping and recovery.

Smith, Hope Anita. ***The Way a Door Closes***. (811.54 TUR)

A collection of poems about a thirteen-year-old boy whose father abandoned him and his family.

Smith, Kristen. ***The Geography of Girlhood***. (FIC SMITH)

A coming-of-age novel in poems, in which small-town teenager, Penny Morrow, longs for love, courage, and a life of adventure and struggles through the absence of her mother, the mental illness of a friend, the death of someone from her past, and a romance with her sister's ex-boyfriend.

Sones, Sonya. ***One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies***. (FIC SONES)

Fifteen-year-old Ruby Milliken leaves her best friend, her boyfriend, her aunt, and her mother's grave in Boston and reluctantly flies to Los Angeles to live with her father, a famous movie star who divorced her mother before Ruby was born.

Sones, Sonya. ***Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy.*** (FIC SONES)

A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.

Sones, Sonya. ***What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know.*** (FIC SONES)

Sequel to: ***What My Mother Doesn't Know.*** Artistic fourteen-year-old Robin Murphy is so unpopular at high school that his name is slang for "loser," so when he begins dating the beautiful and popular Sophie, her reputation plummets.

Testa, Maria. ***Something About America.*** (811.54 TES)

Presents a collection of poems that relate a fictional story, inspired by actual events, where a young girl struggles with the difficulty of growing up in America as an immigrant from Kosova, Yugoslavia.

Turner, Ann. ***Grass Songs.*** (811.54 TUR)

A collection of seventeen poems describing the experience of traveling west during the 1800s, as seen through the eyes of pioneer women.

Turner, Ann. ***Hard Hit.*** (FIC TURNER)

A rising high school baseball star faces his most difficult challenge when his father is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Turner, Ann. ***Learning to Swim: A Memoir.*** (811.5 TUR)

A series of poems conveying the feelings of a girl whose sense of joy and security at the family's summer house is shattered when an older boy who lives nearby sexually abuses her.

Wayland, April Halprin. ***Girl Coming in for a Landing: A Novel in Poems.*** (811.54 WAY)

A collection of over 100 poems recounting the ups and downs of one adolescent girl's school year.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. ***Make Lemonade.*** (FIC WOLFF)

Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn, trying to earn the money for college, takes a job caring for the two children of Jolly, a single teenage mom, and must find the courage to make the right decision for all of them after Jolly is fired.

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***Locomotion.*** (811.54 WOO)

Inspired by his teacher, eleven-year-old Lonnie begins to write about his life in a series of poems in which he discusses his feelings about his friends, his foster mom, his little sister Lili, and the death of his parents.