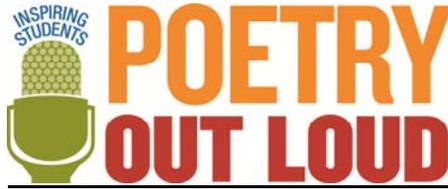


THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
THE POETRY FOUNDATION
Present



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Recitation and performance are major new trends in poetry. There has been a recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of hip-hop music. *Poetry Out Loud* builds on this momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class. The National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation have partnered with State Arts Agencies throughout the country to support the expansion of *Poetry Out Loud*, which encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting new program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

After successful pilot programs in Washington, DC, and Chicago, the second phase of *Poetry Out Loud* was launched in high schools across America in the spring of 2006 with tens of thousands of students participating. Since its inception in 2006, national winners have been:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Jackson Hille | Ohio | May 2006 |
| Amanda Fernandez | Washington, D.C. | May 2007 |
| Shawntay Henry | U.S. Virgin Islands | April 2008 |
| William Farley | Virginia | April 2009 |
| Amber Rose Johnson | Rhode Island | April 2010 |
| Youssef Biaz | Alabama | April 2011 |
| Kristen Dupard | Mississippi | May 2012 |
| Langston Ward | Washington | April 2013 |
| Anita Norman | Tennessee | April 2014 |
| Maeva Ordaz | Alaska | April 2015 |

CONTEST STRUCTURE AND AWARDS

Now in its eleventh year, *Poetry Out Loud* continues to use a pyramid structure that begins at the classroom level. Students compete within the classroom, then move to a school-wide competition, then to the state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals. Participating teachers in the Poetry Out Loud program are provided with all necessary curriculum materials to implement the program.

Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner's school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. Additionally, a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends are awarded to the winners at the National Finals. At the National Finals in Washington, D.C., all state winners compete in three semi-final rounds. From those semi-final rounds, nine finalists are selected. Six of the finalists receive \$1,000 scholarships, the second runner-up receives \$5,000, the first runner-up \$10,000 and the national winner receives a \$20,000 scholarship.