



RECOMMENDED FOR BOOK GROUPS

For National Poetry Day, 28 September, share a poem with your book group. Explore this list of ten poetry books recommended for book groups.



Swims by Elizabeth-Jane Burnett, Penned in the Margins

Elizabeth-Jane Burnett's *Swims* describes wild swimming in lakes, rivers and seas across the UK. An evocative long poem split into chapters, it is interspersed with a sequence about her father. A mesmerising, lyrical debut that investigates the human impact on the natural world as well as nature's unmistakable effect on us.

Inside the Wave, by Helen Dunmore, Bloodaxe Books

Inside the Wave, Helen Dunmore's tenth and final book of poetry, is set on the borderline between the living and the dead, the underworld and the human living world. These poems possess the spare, eloquent lyricism typical of her work.

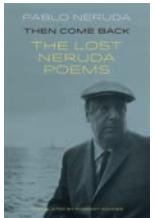
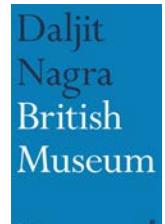


The Art of Falling by Kim Moore, Seren Books

Kim Moore writes about real people: 'scaffolders and plasterers and shoemakers and carers' and does so with a real honesty and insight. A separate and very powerful sequence in this book describes the terror of a woman caught in a violent relationship. Moving and direct, it demands to be read.

British Museum by Daljit Nagra, Faber & Faber

The BBC, Hadrian's Wall, the Sikh gurdwaras of our towns, the British Museum: this a series of meditations and reflections upon our heritage, our legacy, and the institutions that define them. Nagra asks profound questions of our ethics and responsibilities at a time of real challenge to our sense of national identity.



Then Come Back: The Lost Poems of Pablo Neruda, Bloodaxe Books

Neruda is renowned for poetry that casts away despair and celebrates living, fired by his belief that there is no unsurmountable solitude. *Then Come Back* presents Neruda's mature writing: signature love poems, anecdotes, and poems of the political imagination. Translator Forrest Gander beautifully renders the heartache, deep wonder and wordplay of the original Spanish.



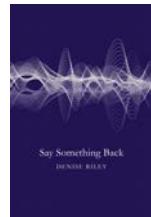
Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine, Penguin Press

In this moving, critical and fiercely intelligent collection of prose poems, Claudia Rankine examines the experience of race and racism in Western society through sharp vignettes of everyday discrimination and prejudice, and longer meditations on violence, linguistic or physical. A powerful testament to the effects of racism in an ostensibly 'post-race' society.

Say Something Back by Denise Riley, Picador

A deeply moving document of grieving and loss by one of our finest writers, *Say Something Back* allows readers to see why Denise Riley is held in such high regard by both her fellow poets and readers.

'Her poetry gets to the heart.' Jackie Kay

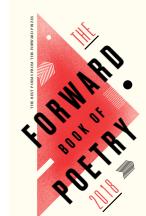
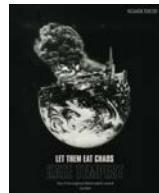


The Immigration Handbook by Caroline Smith, Seren Books

The strikingly moving poems in Caroline Smith's collection come out of the author's career as an Immigration Caseworker for one of the most diverse areas in London. Her characters are careful composites of people she has observed, their emotions conveyed with simple descriptions of their circumstances and feelings, in beautifully clear, expressive language.

Let Them Eat Chaos by Kate Tempest, Picador

Seven neighbours inhabit the same London street, all unknown to each other. The clock freezes in the small hours, and, one by one, we see directly into their lives: lives that are damaged, lonely, broken. Then a great storm breaks, bringing them one last chance to connect. A poem to be read aloud.



The Forward Book of Poetry, introduction by Andrew Marr, Faber & Faber

A showcase of the best contemporary poetry published in the British Isles over the last year, including the winners of 2017's prestigious Forward Prizes for Poetry, this invaluable anthology gives a strong sense of the variety, vitality and wit of poetry today. The Forward website has great background material too, such as interviews with the shortlisted poets.

For extracts, reading group notes and more information visit
www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

If you're celebrating on 28 September,
let us know #NationalPoetryDay



National
Poetry
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