

# WTBBL Book List:

## Poetry – National Poetry Month 2025

A variety of poetry from across WTBBL's collection, created for National Poetry Month in 2025.

**Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability** edited by Jennifer Bartlett, 2011. ([DB074050](#))

Anthology of disability poetry, essays on disability, and writings on the poetics of both. Crip Poetry. Disability Poetry. Poems with Disabilities. This is where poetry and disability intersect, overlap, collide and make peace.

**Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo, 2020. ([LP026033](#), [DB099823](#))

A novel in verse. Teens Camino Rios, of the Dominican Republic, and Yahaira Rios, of New York City, are devastated to learn of their father's death in a plane crash and stunned to learn of each other's existence.

**The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni, 1968-1998** by Nikki Giovanni, 2007. ([DB069494](#))

Three decades of work by acclaimed poet Nikki Giovanni, from her first published volume "Black Feeling Black Talk" through "Those Who Ride the Night Winds."

**Dog Songs: Thirty-five Dog Songs and One Essay** by Mary Oliver, 2013. ([BR020328](#), [DB077665](#))

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet illustrates her love of all dogs while focusing on the numerous dogs that have enriched her own life. Many poems use the pets' voices, others include conversations between Oliver and a canine friend.

**Obit: Poems** by Victoria Chang, 2019. ([BR023147](#), [DB099260](#))

After her mother died, poet Victoria Chang refused to write elegies. Rather, she distilled her grief during a feverish two weeks by writing scores of poetic obituaries for all she lost in the world. This book is the result.

**Patriarchy Blues** by Rena Priest, 2017. ([BRC01912](#), [DBC19186](#))

These poems are about people, love, and keeping on regardless. "Rena Priest addresses those who crave 'the meat of beasts with beets and leeks.' And while she insists that 'Nature makes you pay,' her poems tell us that through a 'wistful song of sighs.' The world is not always comfortable, but her poems never 'lose touch with the fluidity of the spirit.'

**Postcolonial Love Poem/Poema de Amor Poscolonial** by Natalie Díaz, 2012. ([DBC27461](#), [DB114813 en Español](#))

An anthem of desire against erasure. Natalie Diaz's brilliant second collection demands that every body carried in its pages bodies of language, land, rivers, suffering brothers, enemies, and lovers be touched and held as beloveds. It unravels notions of American goodness and creates something more powerful than hope a future is built, future being a matrix of the choices we make now, and in these poems, Diaz chooses love.

**This Is the Honey: An Anthology of Contemporary Black Poets** by Kwame Alexander, 2024. ([DB120434](#))

In this comprehensive and vibrant poetry anthology, bestselling author and poet Kwame Alexander curates a collection of contemporary anthems, at turns tender and piercing and deeply inspiring throughout.

**Time is a Mother** by Ocean Vuong, 2022. ([DB110297](#))

In this deeply intimate second poetry collection, Ocean Vuong searches for life among the aftershocks of his mother's death, embodying the paradox of sitting within grief while being determined to survive beyond it.

**Tonguebreaker** by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, 2019. ([BR024627](#), [DB111317](#))

In their fourth collection of poetry, Lambda Literary Award-winning poet and writer Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha continues her excavation of working-class queer brown femme survivorhood and desire. *Tonguebreaker* is about surviving the unsurvivable: living through hate crimes, the suicides of queer kin, and the rise of fascism while falling in love and walking through your beloved's Queens neighborhood.

**Where the Sidewalk Ends** by Shel Silverstein, 1974. ([BR011502](#), [DB035732](#))

A collection of 127 madcap poems. Subjects include acrobats, Band-Aids, dancing pants, and sleeping sardines.