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Featured Bookshelf: 2017 National Poetry Month

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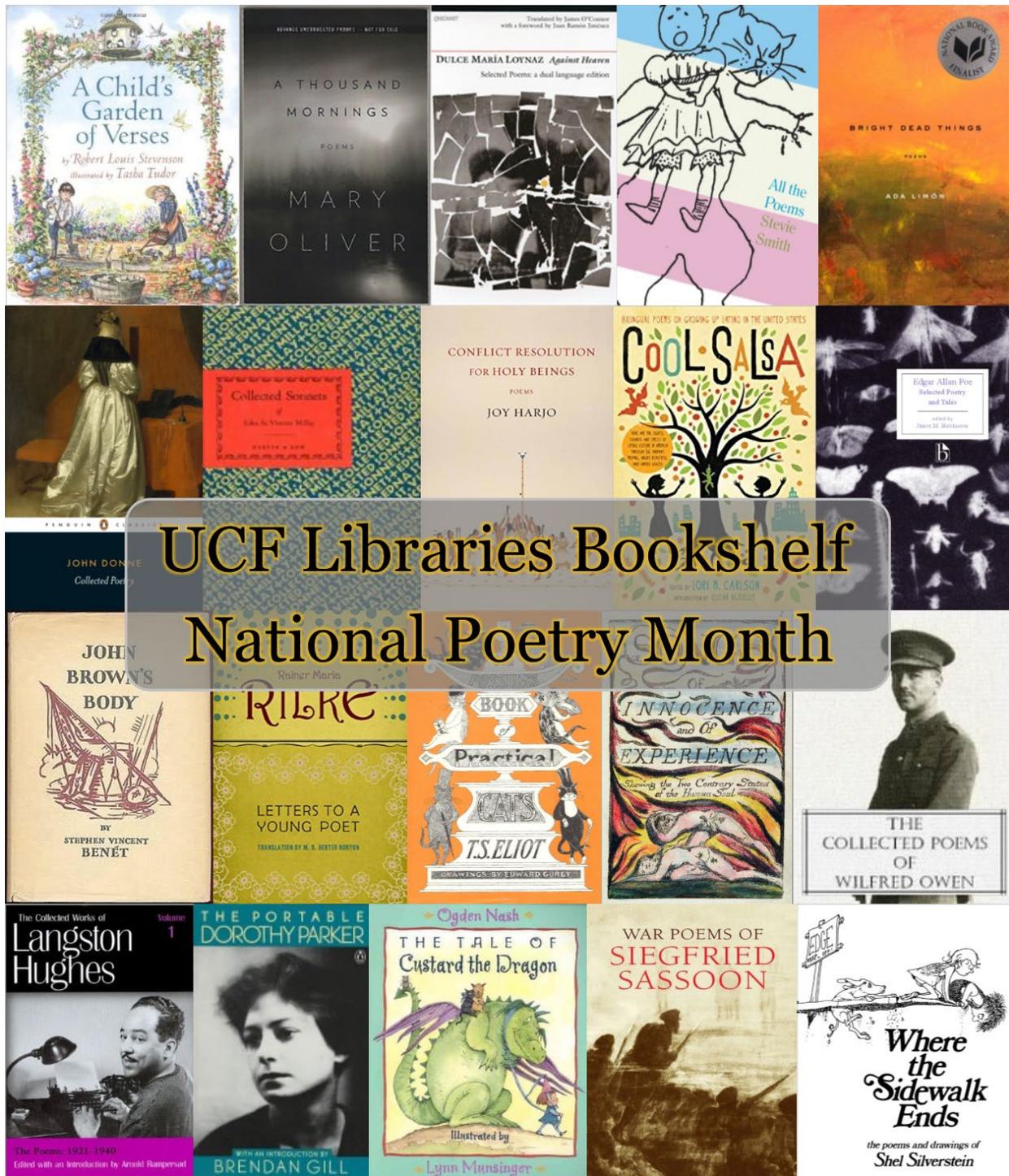
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UCF Libraries Bookshelf National Poetry Month

"I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely..."

Yes, I'm going Joyce Kilmer on you. It's National Poetry Month. How could I not start with the opening of a poem we all learn in primary school?

The Academy of American Poets, inspired by the success of Black History Month and Women's History Month, created National Poetry Month in 1996. It is the largest literary celebration in the world and UCF Libraries are proud to do their part.

We gathered suggestions for 20 books of poetry that are currently in the UCF collection. These works represent a wide range of favorite poetry books of our faculty and staff. Click on the Read More link below to see the full descriptions and catalog links.

[A Child's Garden of Verses](#) by Robert Louis Stevenson

Here is a delightful look at childhood, written by master poet and storyteller Robert Louis Stevenson. In this collection of sixty-six poems, Stevenson recalls the joys of his childhood, from sailing boats down a river, to waiting for the lamplighter, to sailing off to foreign lands in his imagination.

Suggested by Susan MacDuffee, Acquisitions & Collections, and Jamie LaMoreaux, Acquisitions & Collections

[A Thousand Mornings](#) by Mary Oliver

In A THOUSAND MORNINGS, Mary Oliver returns to the imagery that has come to define her life's work, transporting us to the marshland and coastline of her beloved home, Provincetown, Massachusetts. In these pages, Oliver shares the wonder of dawn, the grace of animals, and the transformative power of attention. Whether studying the leaves of a tree or mourning her adored dog, Percy, she is ever patient in her observations and open to the teachings contained in the smallest of moments.

Suggested by Christina Wray, Digital Learning & Engagement Librarian

[Against Heaven: Selected Poems of Dulce María Loynaz](#) by Dulce María Loynaz

The first available English translation of this work shares numerous selections of the author's most popular poems. A cultural icon in her native Cuba, Loynaz's poetry was considered taboo because of its individualistic, apolitical preoccupations. This collection contains poems from each of Loynaz's books, including the acclaimed prose poems from Poems with No Names, a selection of posthumously published work.

Suggested by Carrie Moran, User Engagement Librarian

[All the Poems of Stevie Smith](#) by Stevie Smith

Stevie Smith is among the most popular British poets of the twentieth century. Her poem "Not Waving but Drowning" has been widely anthologized, and her life was celebrated in the classic 1978 movie Stevie. This new and updated edition of Stevie Smith's collected poems includes hundreds of works from her thirty-five-year career. The Smith scholar Will May collects poems and illustrations from published volumes, provides fascinating details about their provenance, and describes the various versions Smith presented. Satirical, mischievous, teasing, disarming, Smith's poems take readers from comedy to tragedy and back again, while her line drawings are by turns unsettling and beguiling.

Suggested by Richard Harrison, Subject Librarian

[Bright Dead Things](#) by Ada Limon

A finalist for both the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, *Bright Dead Things* examines the dangerous thrill of living in a world you must leave one day and the search to find something that is “disorderly, and marvelous, and ours.”

Suggested by Carrie Moran, User Engagement Librarian

[Collected Poetry](#) by John Donne

Regarded by many as the greatest of the metaphysical poets, John Donne was also among the most intriguing figures of the Elizabethan Age. A sensualist who composed erotic and playful love poetry in his youth, he was raised a Catholic but later became one of the most admired Protestant preachers of his time. Reflecting this wide diversity, *Collected Poetry* includes his youthful songs and sonnets, epigrams, elegies, letters, satires, and the profoundly moving *Divine Poems* composed toward the end of his life. From joyful works such as "The Flea," which transforms the image of a louse into something marvelous, to the intimate and intense *Holy Sonnets*, Donne breathed new vigor into poetry by drawing startling metaphors from the world in which he lived.

Suggested by Missy Murphey, Subject Librarian

[Collected Sonnets of Edna St. Vincent Millay](#) by Edna St. Vincent Millay

More than 180 sonnets selected from Millay's books of poems -- including 20 sonnets from *Mine the Harvest* not contained in previous editions of her *Collected Sonnets* -- are brought together in this new, expanded edition.

Suggested by Larry Cooperman, Research & Information Services

[Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings: Poems](#) by Joy Harjo

Folklore, history, personal journeys and modern times are entwined in this absorbing work by a Native American poet.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States](#) edited by Lori M Carlson

Poems celebrating Hispanic culture are the focus of this collection. Liberal sprinkling of Spanish words and phrases with some poems translated from one language to another make this an ideal anthology for both the English class and the bilingual ESL classroom.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services

[Edgar Allen Poe: Selected Poetry and Tales](#) edited by James M. Hutchisson

Edgar Allan Poe's stories and poems are among the most haunting and indelible in American literature, but critics for decades persisted in seeing Poe as an anomaly, or even an anachronism. These are supplemented by a selection of contextual documents--newspaper and magazine articles, treatises, and other historical texts--that will help readers understand the social, literary, and intellectual milieu in

which Poe wrote.

Suggested by Missy Murphey, Subject Librarian

[John Brown's body](#), as staged at the Yale Drama School and Off-Broadway under the direction of Curtis Canfield by Stephen Vincent Benet

It is not one of your tours de forces of intellect and technique, to be admired and then tucked away on the library shelf. It is a library of storytelling itself, a poem extraordinarily rich in action as well as actors, vivid, varied, and so expressive of many men and moods that prose could never have carried its electric burden.

Suggested by Becky Hammond, Special Collections & University Archives

[Letters to a Young Poet](#) by Ranier Maria Rilke

Rilke's timeless letters about poetry, sensitive observation, and the complicated workings of the human heart.

Suggested by Carrie Moran, User Engagement Librarian

[Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats](#) by T.S. Eliot

Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats is a collection of whimsical poems by T. S. Eliot about feline psychology and sociology, published by Faber and Faber. It is the basis for the musical Cats.

Suggested by Becky Hammond, Special Collections & University Archives

[Songs of Innocence and of Experience](#) by William Blake

In 1794 Blake published Songs of Innocence and of Experience: Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul. It contained a slightly rearranged version of Songs of Innocence with the addition of Songs of Experience. The poems reflect Blake's views that experience brings the individual into conflict with rules, moralism, and repression; as a result, the songs of experience are bitter, ironic replies to those of the earlier volume. The Lamb is the key symbol of Innocence; in Experience its rival image is the Tyger, the embodiment of energy, strength, lust, and aggression.

Suggested by Seth Dwyer, Circulation

[The Collected Works of Langston Hughes 1902-1967](#) by Langston Hughes

The sixteen volumes are published with the goal that Hughes pursued throughout his lifetime: making his books available to the people. Each volume will include a biographical and literary chronology by Arnold Rampersad, as well as an introduction by a Hughes scholar. Lume introductions will provide contextual and historical information on the particular work.

Suggested by Susan MacDuffee, Acquisitions & Collections

[The Collected Poems of Wilfred Owen](#) edited with an introduction and notes by C. Day Lewis and with a memoir by Edmund Blunden

This is the definitive single-volume edition of the work of the greatest poet of the First World War, whose death in battle a few days before Armistice was the most disastrous loss to English letters since Keats.

Suggested by Jamie LaMoreaux, Acquisitions & Collections

[The Portable Dorothy Parker](#) by Dorothy Parker

This collection ranges over the verse, stories, essays, and journalism of one of the twentieth century's most quotable authors.

Suggested by Jamie LaMoreaux, Acquisitions & Collections

[The Tale of Custard the Dragon](#) by Ogden Nash

The Tale of Custard the Dragon is a poem for children written by Ogden Nash. A picture book of the 1936 poem with illustrations by Lynn M. Munsinger was published at a later date. The poem has been described as "his most famous poem for kids".

Suggested by Jamie LaMoreaux, Acquisitions & Collections

[The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon](#) arranged and introduced by Rupert Hart-Davis

For "The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon," Sir Rupert Hart-Davis has arranged the poems as far as possible in the order of their composition. A useful Biographical Table is also included, so that students, scholars, and other readers can trace the movement of the soldier alongside the mind of the poet. Fourteen of the poems in this volume are published for the first time.

Suggested by Jamie LaMoreaux, Acquisitions & Collections

[Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems and Drawings of Shel Silverstein](#) by Shel Silverstein

A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in a collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings.

Suggested by Megan Haught, Teaching & Engagement/Research & Information Services