



Beyond Booked Up: Introducing Performance Poetry

20 recommended poems for performance

These poems are a mix of classic and contemporary, but all of them are well suited to performance because of their regular rhythms, imagery, and humour.

Maya Angelou, 'Phenomenal Woman':

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/phenomenal-woman/>

William Blake, 'Songs of Innocence and Experience':

<http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext99/sinex10h.htm#33>

Robert Browning, 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin':

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16376/16376-h/16376-h.htm#page1>

Samuel Taylor Coleridge 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner':

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/151/151-h/151-h.htm>

Roald Dahl, 'Television':

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/television/>

Robert Frost, 'Ghost House':

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3021/3021-h/3021-h.htm#2H_4_0001

John Hegley, 'Poem de Terre':

<http://www.johnhegley.co.uk/networds/docs/poemdeterre.htm>

John Hegley, 'Pop and Me':

<http://www.johnhegley.co.uk/networds/docs/popandme.htm>

John Keats, 'To Autumn':

<http://www.potw.org/archive/potw279.html>

Rudyard Kipling, 'If':

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/if/>

Roger McGough, 'First Day at School':

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/first-day-at-school/>

Wilfred Owen, 'Anthem for Doomed Youth':

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1034/1034-h/1034-h.htm#2H_4_0012

Wilfred Owen, 'Dulce et Decorum Est':

http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1034/1034-h/1034-h.htm#2H_4_0015

Edgar Allan Poe, 'The Raven':

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/17192/17192-h/17192-h.htm>

William Shakespeare, 'Sonnets':

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/1041/pg1041.html>

Dylan Thomas, 'Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night':

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/do-not-go-gentle-into-that-good-night/>

Oscar Wilde, 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' (we suggest that you choose an excerpt from this):

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/301/301-h/301-h.htm>

William Wordsworth, 'I wandered as lonely as a cloud' ('Daffodils'):

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12383/12383-h/Wordsworth3a.html#section3a>

Benjamin Zephaniah, 'Everybody is Doing It':

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/everybody-is-doing-it/>