April is National Poetry Month by Joy Fleischhacker

In addition to exploring traditional poetry, celebrate by sampling an array of notable novels for young people written in verse. Incorporating a variety of poetic types and styles, this inviting literary format captivates readers with fast-paced plots, accessible storytelling, and lyrical writing. The enchanting offerings featured here make perfect choices for reading aloud, instigating discussion of plot elements and themes, and generating enthusiasm for poetry. Looking for more? Search the PPLD Catalog for “novels in verse” or stop by your location’s information desk.

Contemporary and Family Tales

Tamura Will Wissinger’s Going Camping (Grades 1 - 5; J-FIC) utilizes a variety of poetic styles (introduced in a helpful appendix) to relate Sam and Lucy’s fun-filled excursion with Grandpa. Readers can enjoy the siblings’ humorous antics, and then try penning different types of poems.

In Little Dog, Lost (Grades 2 - 6; J-FIC), Marion Dane Bauer describes how a lonely boy who longs for a pet and a suddenly homeless pooch find each other—and together make their small town a better place.

After 12-year-old Reena and her younger brother move from the city to a small town in Maine, their parents volunteer them to do barnyard chores for a penurious neighbor. Sharon Creech’s Pinch of Trouble (Grades 4 - 6; J-FIC) tells a heartfelt tale about family life, the importance of kindness, and an “ornery” cow named Zora.

Historical Fiction

When 12-year-old May B. (Grades 3 - 6; J-FIC) is hired out by her parents to work at a neighboring homestead on the Kansas frontier in the 1870s, she faces challenges she never anticipated. Caroline Starr Heppermann’s Landmark Civil Rights Case (Grades 5 - 8; Teen-FIC) describes Mimi’s challenges and determination to hold tight to her dreams.

Kwame Alexander’s Newbery-Medal winning The Crossover, about basketball phenom Josh, and Booked (both Grades 6 - 10; Teen-FIC), featuring 12-year-old soccer star Nick, blend vividly described sports action with relatable coming-of-age themes and emotions.
CyberShelf

Pikes Peak Library District offers many services and resources that are available to anyone with a free PPLD library card. Many of these resources are found beyond the ppld.org homepage. Patrons can click one tab and find materials to check out on their devices!

Go to:
1. ppld.org
2. CyberShelf
3. Choose any one of the options and explore or choose New to CyberShelf!

Did you know?
With your free PPLD library card you and your family can access books, videos, music, and magazines on your devices!

Love That Dog
by Sharon Creech (2001)

I love everything that Douglas Florian has written. His poetry is rich in vocabulary, unique art, and his poems never, ever make me feel like I cannot understand what he is writing about. I am often happy surprised when I turn the page and find a poem spread out across the page in a very unusual way.

Many of the options include tutorials on how to use the resource and step by step instructions to log in and utilizing the materials.

For example...

Freegal provides free music downloads

OverDrive provides e-books, e-audios, and e-videos

MyLibrary provides free magazines and recorded books

The magazines a patron chooses are instantly placed on the library account when new issues come out. The best news is that the magazines do not need to be returned.

These resources are helpful to homeschooling families that enjoy books, videos, music, and audio books for both pleasure and education. Families may also find some of the educational resources they require are only available through CyberShelf. There options for abundant materials to provide an excellent educational experience once again can be maximized with just a free PPLD library card.