

This season, 1,737 students and 79 teachers at 20 Idaho schools participated in Poetry Out Loud. The top 12 will compete here tonight as Idaho's Poetry Out Loud finalists.



**ZION HANNON** American Heritage Charter School, Idaho Falls

Zion Hannon is a sophomore with aspirations to become a baker. She loves to try new recipes and is usually seen with a plate of goodies handing treats to others in the school halls. Zion loves everything about poetry and would love to publish her own book of poetry one day.

*"1969" by Alex Dimitrov, "If We Must Die" by Claude McKay, "Sonnet: On Being Cautioned Against Walking on an Headland Overlooking the Sea, Because It Was Frequented by a Lunatic" by Charlotte Smith*



**ASHA MUHINGI** Capital High School, Boise

Asha Muhingi is a senior who wishes to contribute and work for her community. She loves advocating for many causes, most notably the environment and human rights. Her motivation is public service, and her favorite poet is Maya Angelou.

*"Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Reservation" by Natalie Diaz, "A Wing and a Prayer" by Beth Fennelly, "Ah! Why, Because the Dazzling Sun" by Emily Bronte*



**SERYN CROSWHITE** Classical Christian Academy, Rathdrum

Seryn Croswhite is senior at a small classical christian school in Rathdrum, ID. She enjoys art, baking, and water skiing. She is looking forward to studying abroad come fall.

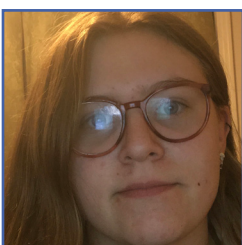
*"The Light Of Stars" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Farmer" by W. D. Ehrhart, "The Speakers" by Weldon Kees*



**TAYLOR BERGGREN** Eagle High School, Eagle

Taylor Berggren is a senior with plans to go into graphic design! She loves performing with her school's theater department, adventuring with her friends, spending time with her family, and volunteering with elementary-age kids!

*"The Impossible Replication of Desire" by Lee Herrick, "On An Unsociable Family" by Elizabeth Hands, "The Properly Scholarly Attitude" by Adelaide Crapsey*



**AUDRA CURL** Idaho Digital Learning Alliance

Audra Curl is a sophomore with a dream of moving to Japan and traveling the world. She hopes to become an English teacher and always help those that need it. She's a little weird, but honestly, who isn't?

*"I felt a Funeral, in my Brain, (340)" by Emily Dickinson, "Acquainted with the Night" by Robert Frost, "The Sorrow of True Love" by Edward Thomas*



**KYLEE THOMAS** McCall-Donnelly High School, McCall

Kylee Thomas is a junior with hopes of becoming a music teacher! In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, throwing epic dance parties, and cooking.

*"All Thirst Quenched" by Lois Red Elk, "To have without holding" by Marge Piercy, "April Love" by Ernest Dowson*



**LIAM PETERSON** Mountain Home High School, Mountain Home

Liam Peterson is a sophomore with aspirations to pursue a lifetime of acting and theatre. He loves arts and crafts, collecting mugs, and his cat Skunk!

*"I am Trying to Break Your Heart" by Kevin Young, "A Thank-You Note" by Michael Ryan, "I Remember, I Remember" by Thomas Hood*



Emma Eldred is a sophomore at New Plymouth High School who loves art, singing, music and English literature. She plays wood wind instruments—the alto and soprano saxophone. She is a winner already as she took fourth in The Veterans of Foreign Wars essay writing contest earlier this year. She also the Historian of the NPHS Student Council and a member of the National Honor Society. And, to top that, she is on track to be her class's Valedictorian. *"Curandera" by Pat Mora, "A Thank-You Note" by Michael Ryan, "Amor Mundi" by Christina Rossetti*

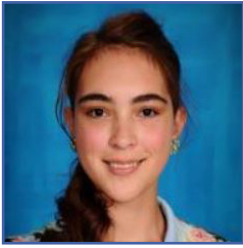
**EMMA ELDRED** *New Plymouth High School, New Plymouth*



Karalie Potter is a high school junior. She is very busy with student government, Poetry Out Loud, book club, and National Honor Society; but she always loves coming to the POL meetings. She loves reading, baking new things, and hanging out with her eight other siblings.

*"After the Winter" by Claude McKay, "If We Must Die" by Claude McKay, "Early Affection" by George Moses Horton*

**KARALIE POTTER** *North Idaho STEM Charter Academy, Rathdrum*



Aariah Coile, a senior at Paradise Creek Regional High School in Moscow, values self-expression and creativity and stage performance. Her passions for art and clothing lead her to explore the apparel and textiles field as she looks forward to her enrollment at the University of Idaho this fall.

*"Carnival" by Rebecca Lindenberg, "to the notebook kid" by Eve L. Ewing, "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manly Hopkins*

**AARIAH COILE** *Paradise Creek Regional High School, Moscow*



Cassius Klingenfuss is a junior with a passion for anything performance related. He loves acting, Taylor Swift, and talking a little too loud.

*"Confessions" by Robert Browning, "El Olvido" by Judith Ortiz Cofer, "As Kingfishers Catch Fire" by Gerard Manly Hopkins*

**CASSIUS KLINGENFUSS** *Sun Valley Community School, Sun Valley*



Emma Spooner is a sophomore at Xavier Charter School. She's a member of the National Honor Society and she's active in 4H. Emma enjoys singing, acting, playing the trumpet, and spending time with her friends and her pet cats and bunnies.

*"Hysteria" by Dionisio D. Martinez, "Invisible Children" by Mariana Llanos, "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley*

**EMMA SPOONER** *Xavier Charter School, Twin Falls*

Share your contest journey:  
#POL23 #ArtsIdaho #IAmPoetryOutLoud

**JUDGE AIDAN BREZONICK** is an Emmy-winning filmmaker from Idaho. His narrative works have been showcased at SXSW, NBC, NPR, Rolling Stone, Salon, Pitchfork, and with NASA in space! All that's to say, Aidan loves telling stories about the frontier, the nature of change, and the characters that shape our world.

**JUDGE CUREAM JACKSON** is a decorated creative who intertwines several disciplines in the performing arts realm. His artistic journey brought him opportunities to work and study with artists and programs worldwide. With a degree in French literature and a passion for the arts, he's thrilled to participate in Poetry Out Loud.

**JUDGE JEANNE HUFF** has been a journalist for 25 years and a poet since she can remember. She is the editor of *Boise Weekly*. Jeanne and her late husband, Bob Neal, founded the first poetry slam in Boise, and took teams to the nationals. She's been published in literary journals and is the author of two chapbooks.

**ACCURACY JUDGE CALEB MERRITT** Caleb Merritt is a first-year poetry graduate student in the MFA program in Creative Writing at Boise State University. Growing up in the midwest, he most recently resided in Alabama. His work was most recently put out as *Chapbook*, his third collection of poetry.

**PROMPTER ADAM RAY WAGNER** is a poet from various states, mostly Nebraska. He holds a BA in Creative Writing from Colorado State University and an MA in English: Poetry & Poetics from the University of Maine.

**EMCEE LACEY DALEY** writes and produces in Boise. She is the digital strategy manager at Boise State Public Radio and cohosts the podcast *You Know The Place*.

**EMCEE JOEL WAYNE**'s writing has appeared in *The Independent (UK)*, *The Moth*, and *Salon*, among many other places. He's received an Arts Idaho fellowship in literature and produces the podcasts *You Know The Place* and *Reader's Corner* for NPR. Wayne has served as a judge for the Scholastic Writing Awards for over 10 years and is the public programs manager at The Cabin, a literary arts organization.

Photography & Videography: VisionKit Studios

Live Captioning: ARV

Poetry Out Loud encourages the study of great poetry through a dynamic recitation competition for high school students.

