APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Presented by Miss Caitlin
Pottstown Regional Public Library
Youth Services Department
Hopkins writes, “Crank is loosely based on my older daughter’s story of addiction to crystal meth. Crank quickly found a following, due to its timely subject matter, interesting format and honest portrayal of a ‘good girl’s’ fall from grace. Crank began as a personal exploration of the ‘why’s’ behind my daughter’s decisions, and what part I might have played in them.” So many readers have asked, “What happened to Kristina?” that Hopkins decided to answer the question with another book, Glass. When Crank first released in October 2004, Hopkins knew it was an important story, but she could not have predicted its phenomenal success. Hopkins never planned a sequel to Crank, but readers wanted more of Kristina’s story. Series tend to degrade over time, and Hopkins did not want to give her readers progressively weaker books. Rather, she wanted the third and final Kristina book to be the most powerful of the three. Fallout is written from the points of view of Kristina’s three oldest children, now teens in the book, and dealing with their own lives, which are shaped by the choices she made when she was their age.

www.ellenhopkins.com

Ages 13+
Twelve-year-old Trace Reynolds has always looked up to his brother, mostly because Will, who's five years older, has never looked down on him. It was Will who taught Trace to ride a bike, would watch sports on TV with him, and cheer him on at Little League.

But when Will was knocked out cold during a football game, resulting in a brain injury—everything changed. Now, seventeen months later, their family is still living under the weight of "the incident," that left Will with a facial tic, depression, and an anger he cannot always control, culminating in their parents' divorce.

Afraid of further fracturing his family, Trace begins to cover for Will who, struggling with addiction to pain medication, becomes someone Trace doesn't recognize. But when the brother he loves so much becomes more and more withdrawn, and escalates to stealing money and ditching school, Trace realizes some secrets cannot be kept if we ever hope to heal.

Ages 12+
Women Are Some Kind of Magic series by Amanda Lovelace

1. From Amanda Lovelace, a poetry collection in four parts: the princess, the damsel, the queen, and you. The first three sections piece together the life of the author while the final section serves as a note to the reader. This moving book explores love, loss, grief, healing, empowerment, and inspiration.

2. The witch: supernaturally powerful, inscrutably independent, and now—indestructible. These moving, relatable poems encourage resilience and embolden women to take control of their own stories. Enemies try to judge, oppress, and marginalize her, but the witch doesn’t burn in this one.

3. The mermaid is known for her siren song, luring bedroom-eyed sailors to their demise. However, beneath these misguided myths are tales of escapism and healing, which Lovelace weaves throughout this empowering collection of poetry, taking you on a journey from the sea to the stars. They tried to silence her once and for all, but the mermaid’s voice returns in this one.

Ages 13+
Other Poetry Collections by Amanda Lovelace

Lovelace writes, "within these pages, you will find that each of us has the ability to be both soft & fierce at the same time. there is no need to choose one or the other" (Flower crowns & fearsome things)

*break your glass slippers* is about overcoming those who don't see your worth, even if that person is sometimes yourself, in the epic tale of your life, you are the most important character while everyone is but a forgotten footnote. even the prince.

*shine your icy crown* is a story about not letting society dictate the limits of your potential. it's time to take back your power & realize that you don't need a king in order to be a queen.

Ages 13+
When You Ask Me Where I'm Going by Jasmin Kaur

The six sections of the book explore what it means to be a young woman living in a world that doesn’t always hear her and tell the story of Kiran as she flees a history of trauma and raises her daughter, Sahaara, while living undocumented in North America.

Delving into current cultural conversations including sexual assault, mental health, feminism, and immigration, this narrative of resilience, healing, empowerment, and love will galvanize readers to fight for what is right in their world.

Perfect for fans of Rupi Kaur and Elizabeth Acevedo, Jasmin Kaur’s stunning debut novel is a collection of poetry, illustrations, and prose.

Ages 13+
If I Tell You the Truth
by Jasmin Kaur

In this stunning sophomore novel, acclaimed writer Jasmin Kaur explores trauma, fear, courage, community, and the healing power of love in its many forms.

Kiran flees her home in Punjab for a fresh start in Canada after a sexual assault leaves her pregnant. But overstaying her visa and living undocumented brings its own perils for both her and her daughter, Sahaara.

Sahaara would do anything to protect her mother. When she learns the truth about Kiran’s past, she feels compelled to seek justice—even if it means challenging a powerful and dangerous man.

Ages 13+
Blooming: Poems on Love, Self-Discovery, and Femininity by Alexandra Vasiliu

‘Blooming’ is an empowering poetry collection that takes you on a journey of love, healing, self-discovery, inner strength, and personal transformation. A journey through powerful feelings that grow from seeds and change into flowers. A journey about you and your beautiful heart.

From the very first poem to the last one, you will feel inspired to find your way to become a woman blossoming in love. Dive into these uplifting poems and allow yourself to heal, grow roots in love, and bloom again.

Ages 13+
Healing Words: A Poetry Collection for Broken Hearts
by Alexandra Vasiliu

*Healing Words* is an empowering poetry book about love, heartbreak, loss, sadness, loneliness, healing, hope, self-love, inner strength, self-esteem, personal transformation, wisdom, and happiness.

Written for all of you who have wounds in your hearts, this uplifting poetry book is here to help you. To help you learn how to show more love to yourself. To help you mend your heart’s wounds. To help you let go of your past. To help you overcome your insecurities. To help you win over your fears. To help you turn your tears into hope. To help you let your unique light shine out. To help you discover a new way of self-love. To help you appreciate your worth and inner beauty. To empower you to rise again and move on confidently.

Ages 13+
The Diary of an Oxygen Thief
by Anonymous

Say there was a novel in which Holden Caulfield was an alcoholic and Lolita was a photographer’s assistant and, somehow, they met in Bright Lights, Big City. He’s blinded by love. She by ambition. Diary of an Oxygen Thief is an honest, hilarious, and heartrending novel, but above all, a very realistic account of what we do to each other and what we allow to have done to us.

Ages 15+
Chameleon in a Candy Store
by Anonymous

Picking up the story where it left off, the controversial protagonist of cult classic *Diary of an Oxygen Thief* retools his advertising skills to seduce women online. It’s a pursuit that quickly becomes a dangerous fixation, often requiring even more creativity and deception than his award-winning ad campaigns. Dazzling, daunting, and darkly hilarious, this spellbinding sequel is a spectacular indictment of a modern love twisted beyond recognition.

Ages 15+
Eunuchs and Nymphomaniacs
by Anonymous

You’ve never seen romance do this before. So brutally honest and breathtakingly perverse you’ll want to throw this book at the wall, but you’ll also want to know if it can possibly get any more disturbing (it can and it does). And as you start to wonder whether men and women were ever even meant to be together, a surprise ending brings the trilogy full circle and provides unexpected closure to an issue raised by a certain photographer’s assistant in the first book. Eunuchs and Nymphomaniacs is about how we love today and how increasingly we try to avoid it altogether.

Ages 15+
Pillow Thoughts series by Courtney Peppernell

*Pillow Thoughts* is a collection of poetry and prose about heartbreak, love, and raw emotions. It is divided into sections to read when you feel you need them most.

Peppernell understands that healing is a process, and *Pillow Thoughts II* eloquently captures the time and experience that one goes through on their journey to peace through restoration.

A beautifully raw and poignant collection of poetry and prose, *Pillow Thoughts III* continues the series from poet Courtney Peppernell. Fix yourself a warm drink and settle into Peppernell’s words as she pens a tribute to her readers who are bravely continuing their journey from hurt to healing.

Self-healing is the theme of the entire *Pillow Thoughts* series. While books II and III focus on healing the heart and mind, respectively, *Pillow Thoughts IV* offers a balm for healing the soul. Have a cup of tea and let yourself feel.

Ages 13+
Alone by Megan E. Freeman

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She’s alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned.

With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. After a rough start, Maddie learns to trust her own ingenuity and invents clever ways to survive in a place that has been deserted and forgotten.

As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie’s most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie’s stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?

Ages 12+
Neon Soul: A Collection of Poetry and Prose
by Alexandra Elle

In short, powerful verses, Alexandra Elle shares a hard-won message of hope.

Alexandra Elle writes frankly about her experience as a young, single mother while she celebrates her triumph over adversity and promotes resilience and self-care in her readers. This book of all-new poems from the beloved author of Words From A Wanderer and Love In My Language is a quotable companion on the road to healing.

Ages 13+
Bull by David Elliott

THE MYTH OF THE MINOTAUR? THAT'S BULL.

Garnering six starred reviews, this update of the timeless story of Theseus and the Minotaur has been called “beautifully clever,” “a literary feast fit for the gods,” “powerful and engrossing,” “irresistible, slick, and sharp,” “a genre of its own,” and “rude...crude, and it's a whole bunch of fun.”

Resurrected from the dark depths of the labyrinth, this fresh, deliciously shocking, and darkly comedic novel-in-verse takes on the Theseus and Minotaur myth and shines a light on one of history’s most infamous monsters.

Ages 13+
Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc
by David Elliott

Told through medieval poetic forms and in the voices of the people and objects in Joan of Arc’s life, (including her family and even the trees, clothes, cows, and candles of her childhood), Voices offers an unforgettable perspective on an extraordinary young woman. Along the way it explores timely issues such as gender, misogyny, and the peril of speaking truth to power. Before Joan of Arc became a saint, she was a girl inspired. It is that girl we come to know in Voices.

Ages 13+
The Seventh Raven
by David Elliott

When Robyn and his brothers are turned into ravens through the work of an unlucky curse, a sister is their only hope to become human again. Though she’s never met her brothers, April will stop at nothing to restore their humanity. But what about Robyn, who always felt a greater affinity to the air than to the earth-bound lives of his family?

David Elliott’s latest novel in verse explores the unintended consequences of our actions, no matter our intentions, and is filled with powerful messages teased from a Grimms’ fairy tale. Stunning black-and-white illustrations throughout by Rovina Cai.

Ages 13+
Letting Things Go by Faraway

"This is a celebration, of living, losing, and everything in between" Faraway writes in their second full-length poetry release. 'Letting Things Go' is a poetic journey from hurt to healed, a coming-home kind of tale that ends with both the reader and the author closing the very last page with a pocket full of self-discovery. Taking inspiration from their first book 'Sad Birds Still Sing,' Rupi Kaur's 'Milk and Honey,' Lang Leav's 'Love and Misadventure,' and many more modern day poets, Faraway dives headfirst into their past and takes the reader through their journey of healing as-it-happened. Without straying too far from their known style, Faraway takes a bold step in a new direction, including much more long-form poetry, doubling the word count from their last attempt. This book of poetry is for anyone who has ever felt defeated, hurt, given up on, or let go of. This book of poetry is for anyone who is in dire need of starting over, anyone who simply needs a hand to hold - arms to embrace them late in the evening. This is 'Letting Things Go.'

Ages 13+
Long Way Down
by Jason Reynolds

A cannon. A strap.
A piece. A biscuit.
A burner. A heater.
A chopper. A gat.
A hammer
A tool
for RULE

Or, you can call it a gun. That’s what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That’s where Will’s now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother’s gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he’s after. Or does he? …

The whole long way down, the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END…if Will gets off that elevator.

Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, Long Way Down is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

Ages 12+
Chlorine Sky
by Mahogany L. Browne

Sky is used to standing in the shadow of her best friend. Lay Li is the sun everyone orbits around. But since high school started, Lay Li has begun attracting the attention of boys, and Sky is left out in the cold. The only place Sky can find her footing is on the basketball court. With each dribble of the ball, Sky begins to find her own rhythm. Lay Li may always be the sun, but that doesn’t mean Sky can’t shine on her own.

With gritty and heartbreaking honesty, a critically acclaimed poet, delivers her first novel in verse about broken promises, fast rumors, and learning to generate your own light.

Ages 14+
What are you hiding behind your smile? If those empty bottles that line the walls of your room could speak, what tales would they spill? So much of your truth is buried beneath the lies you tell yourself. There’s a need to scream to the moon; there’s this urge to go out into the darkness of the night to purge. There are so many stories living inside your soul, you just want the opportunity to tell them. And when you can’t find the will to express what lives within your heart, these words will give you peace. These words will set you free.

There’s a harshness in the air; the season is changing its colors. The rain is chilled, icy to the touch, and the sky, filled with melancholy. Your search for warmth has brought you here; you starve for something profound. You require something that will resonate with your soul. Despite how cold, you’re determined to grow. And with these words, you bloom, a winter rose.

Ages 13+
Clap Your Hands When You Land
by Elizabeth Acevedo

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal’s office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance—and Papi’s secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.

And then, when it seems like they’ve lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.

Ages 14+
Nima wishes she were someone else. She doesn’t feel understood by her mother, who grew up in a different land. She doesn’t feel accepted in her suburban town; yet somehow, she isn’t different enough to belong elsewhere. Her best friend, Haitham, is the only person with whom she can truly be herself. Until she can’t, and suddenly her only refuge is gone.

As the ground is pulled out from under her, Nima must grapple with the phantom of a life not chosen—the name her parents meant to give her at birth—Yasmeen. But that other name, that other girl, might be more real than Nima knows. And the life Nima wishes were someone else’s... is one she will need to fight for with a fierceness she never knew she possessed.

Ages 12+
You Don’t Have to Be Everything: Poems of Girls Becoming Themselves by Diana Whitney

Created and compiled just for young women, *You Don’t Have to Be Everything* is filled with works by a wide range of poets who are honest, unafraid, and skilled at addressing the complex feelings of coming-of-age, from loneliness to joy, longing to solace, attitude to humor. These unintimidating poems offer girls a message of self-acceptance and strength, giving them permission to let go of shame and perfectionism.

The cast of 68 poets is extraordinary: Amanda Gorman, the first National Youth Poet Laureate, who read at Joe Biden’s inauguration; bestselling authors like Maya Angelou, Elizabeth Acevedo, Sharon Olds, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Mary Oliver; Instagram-famous poets including Kate Baer, Melody Lee, and Andrea Gibson; poets who are LGBTQ, poets of diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, poets who sing of human experience in ways that are free from conventional ideas of femininity. Illustrated in full color with work by three diverse artists, this book is an inspired gift for daughters and granddaughters—and anyone on the path to becoming themselves.

Ages 12+
Solo
by Kwame Alexander

Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he’d give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy, including the loss of his mother. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming Blade will become just like his father.

In reality, the only thing Blade and Rutherford have in common is the music that lives inside them. And songwriting is all Blade has left after Rutherford, while drunk, crashes his high school graduation speech and effectively rips Chapel away forever. But when a long-held family secret comes to light, the music disappears. In its place is a letter, one that could bring Blade the freedom and love he’s been searching for, or leave him feeling even more adrift.

Ages 13+
IRL
by Tommy Pico

IRL is a sweaty summertime poem composed like a long text message, rooted in the epic tradition of A.R. Ammons, ancient Kumeyaay Bird Songs, and Beyoncé’s visual albums. It follows Teebs, a reservation-born, queer NDN weirdo, trying to figure out his impulses/desires/history in the midst of Brooklyn rooftops, privacy in the age of the Internet, street harassment, suicide, boys boys boys, literature, colonialism, religion, leaving one’s 20s, and a love/hate relationship with English. He’s plagued by an indecision, unsure of which obsessions, attractions, and impulses are essentially his, and which are the result of Christian conversion, hetero-patriarchal/colonialist white supremacy, homophobia, Bacardi, gummy candy, and not getting laid.

IRL asks, what happens to a modern, queer indigenous person a few generations after his ancestors were alienated from their language, their religion, and their history? Teebs feels compelled towards “boys, burgers, booze”, though he begins to suspect there is perhaps a more ancient goddess calling to him behind art, behind music, behind poetry.

Ages 15+
Depression and Other Magic Tricks by Sabrina Benaim

*Depression & Other Magic Tricks* is the debut book by Sabrina Benaim, one of the most-viewed performance poets of all time, whose poem "Explaining My Depression to My Mother" has become a cultural phenomenon with over 50,000,000 views.

*Depression & Other Magic Tricks* explores themes of mental health, love, and family. It is a documentation of struggle and triumph, a celebration of daily life and of living.

Andrea Gibson, author of *Lord of the Butterflies* writes, "I read this book on a day I couldn't get out of bed and it made me feel like I had a friend in the world...Simply put, this book disappears loneliness."

Ages 13+
Punching the Air
by Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam

The story that I thought
was my life
didn’t start on the day
I was born

Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, because of a biased
system he’s seen as disruptive and unmotivated. Then, one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying
neighborhood escalates into tragedy. “Boys just being boys” turns out to be true only when those boys are
white.

The story that I think
will be my life
starts today

Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal is convicted of a crime he didn’t commit and sent to prison. Despair
and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his
story. But can he change it?

With spellbinding lyricism, award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam tell a
moving and deeply profound story about how one boy is able to maintain his humanity and fight for the truth
in a system designed to strip him of both.

Ages 14+
The Truth Project by Dante Medema

Debut author Dante Medema explores the emotional fallout after a teenage girl discovers she is the product of an affair. Told through a series of poems, text messages, and emails, this contemporary YA is perfect for fans of Gaby Dunn and Allison Raskin.

Seventeen-year-old Cordelia Koenig intended to breeze through her senior project. While her peers stressed, Cordelia planned to use the same trace-your-roots genealogy idea her older sister used years prior. And getting partnered with her longtime crush, Kodiak Jones, is icing on the cake. All she needs to do is mail in her DNA sample, write about her ancestry results, and get that easy A.

But when Cordelia’s GeneQuest results reveal that her father is not the person she thought he was, but a stranger who lives thousands of miles away, her entire world shatters. Now she isn’t sure of anything—not the mother who lied, the man she calls Dad, or the girl staring back at her in the mirror.

If your life began with a lie, how can you ever be sure of what’s true?

Ages 13+
Eighteen Years
by Madisen Kuhn

Eighteen Years is a collection of 220+ poems. Madisen Kuhn, popularly known as m.k., writes honestly and personally about the thoughts and feelings that come with finding your way. Eighteen Years is here to tell you that you are not alone. It is meant to be curled up with at night, accompanied by a cup of tea. It's a hug in book-form. It is there to comfort you when fuzzy socks and ice cream just aren't enough. It will inspire you to pick up a pen and write down thoughts of your own. It will help you to say the words that feel stuck in your chest. Take it on the train. Take it to the beach. Keep it on your nightstand. Keep it in your backpack. Read it at the park on benches beneath hundred-year-old trees. Read it while it’s raining. Read it when you’re happy. Read it when your heart aches. Eighteen Years is meant to be bent and worn, written in, tear-stained, and loved. This book is for you.

Ages 13+
Three Things I Know Are True
by Betty Culley

Life changes forever for Liv when her older brother, Jonah, accidentally shoots himself with his best friend Clay’s father’s gun. Now Jonah needs round-the-clock care just to stay alive, and Liv feels like she’s the only person who can see that her brother is still there inside his broken body.

With Liv’s mom suing Clay’s family, there are divisions in the community that Liv knows she’s not supposed to cross. But Clay is her friend, too, and she refuses to turn away from him—just like she refuses to give up on Jonah.

This powerful novel is a stunning exploration of tragedy, grief, compassion, and forgiveness.

Ages 13+
Growing up with a mother suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and a mostly absent father, Nikki Grimes found herself terrorized by babysitters, shunted from foster family to foster family, and preyed upon by those she trusted. At the age of six, she poured her pain onto a piece of paper late one night – and discovered the magic and impact of writing. For many years, Nikki’s notebooks were her most enduring companions. In this accessible and inspiring memoir that will resonate with young readers and adults alike, Nikki shows how the power of those words helped her conquer the hazards – ordinary and extraordinary – of her life.

Ages 12+
Paint Me Like I Am

Today my name is colorful.
Yesterday my name was dead souls.
Tomorrow my name will be lively spirits.
My friends think my name is fire.
The police think my name is burden.
My parents think my name is symphony.
Secretly I know my name is anything I want it to be.

*Paint Me Like I Am* is a collection of poems by teens who have taken part in writing programs run by a national nonprofit organization called WritersCorps. To read the words of these young people is to hear the diverse voices of teenagers everywhere.

Included are a foreword by acclaimed poet Nikki Giovanni, an essay from Kevin Powell, another poet associated with WritersCorps, and writing tips from WritersCorps instructors.

**WritersCorps** was started in 1994 to help at-risk youth in three American urban centers: San Francisco, Washington, DC, and New York City (the Bronx). Thousands of children and teenagers have since benefited from finding creative expression through writing.

Ages 13+
Moonrise
by Sarah Crossan

Seventeen-year-old Joe hasn't seen his brother in ten years. Ed didn't walk out on the family, not exactly. It's something more brutal.

Ed's locked up -- on death row.

Now his execution date has been set, and the clock is ticking. Joe is determined to spend those last weeks with his brother, no matter what other people think ... and no matter whether Ed committed the crime. But did he? And does it matter, in the end?

This poignant, timely, heartbreaking novel asks big questions: What value do you place on life? What can you forgive? And just how do you say goodbye?

Ages 13+
Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she’s been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like “no making waves,” “avoid eating in public,” and “don’t move so fast that your body jiggles.” And she’s found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It’s also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie’s weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life—by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.

Ages 10+
War, Over Easy
by J.H. Hard

In his debut collection War, Over Easy, JH Hard steps away from the clichés of the modern poetry era, while remaining honest and grounded. He takes you on a journey through the exigencies, shortcomings, and triumphs of love. He explores the acceptance and logic of loss - loss of friends and family, and the loss of self. He walks us into the goings on of his life in New York City, and he gives commentary on the disheveled nature of time, as interpreted through his eyes. War, Over Easy, is about the fragility in us all, and the strength and individualism born from it.

Ages 13+
Poet X
by Elizabeth Acevedo

Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.

With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school’s slam poetry club, she doesn’t know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can’t stop thinking about performing her poems.

Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

Ages 13+
Shout
by Laurie Halse Anderson

Bestselling author Laurie Halse Anderson is known for the unflinching way she writes about, and advocates for, survivors of sexual assault. Now, inspired by her fans and enraged by how little in our culture has changed since her groundbreaking novel *Speak* was first published twenty years ago, she has written a poetry memoir that is as vulnerable as it is rallying, as timely as it is timeless. In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven between deeply personal stories from her life that she’s never written about before. Described as “powerful,” “captivating,” and “essential” in the nine starred reviews it’s received, this must-read memoir is being hailed as one of 2019’s best books for teens and adults. A denouncement of our society's failures and a love letter to all the people with the courage to say #MeToo and #TimesUp, whether aloud, online, or only in their own hearts, *SHOUT* speaks truth to power in a loud, clear voice— and once you hear it, it is impossible to ignore.

Ages 14+
Milk and Honey & The Sun and Her Flowers by Rupi Kaur

The book is divided into four chapters, and each chapter serves a different purpose. Deals with a different pain. Heals a different heartache. *milk and honey* takes readers through a journey of the most bitter moments in life and finds sweetness in them because there is sweetness everywhere if you are just willing to look.

Divided into five chapters and illustrated by kaur, *the sun and her flowers* is a journey of wilting, falling, rooting, rising, and blooming. A celebration of love in all its forms.

this is the recipe of life
said my mother
as she held me in her arms as i wept
think of those flowers you plant
in the garden each year
they will teach you
that people too
must wilt
fall
root
rise
in order to bloom

Ages 14+