

# The Berners Review

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*Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Berners Review; your bi-weekly round up of library and learning news.*

*This week's issue explores the enchanting world of poetry. We discuss why we should read poetry, its relationship with hip-hop music, and more in anticipation of National Poetry Day next week.*

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National  
POETRY  
Day 7 October  
2021

This Thursday, let's join the UK in celebrating National Poetry Day 2021! The theme for 2021 is 'choice' and the NPD team earnestly invite you to consider why we should choose to read, write, and listen to poetry.

Get involved online with **#NationalPoetryDay** and follow [@nationalpoetryday](https://www.instagram.com/nationalpoetryday) on Instagram!

## Why choose poetry?

**There's a poem for everybody and every mood.**

When we think of poetry, household names like Wordsworth and Shakespeare are often the first to come to mind and, while we should quite rightly celebrate their canonical works, sometimes we just don't fancy reading the classics. Luckily, there are endlessly different ways to consume poetry: epics, haikus, rap, slam poetry, limericks. The list goes on.

Equally, poets are masterful in capturing a broad and honest range of emotions. Whether you are excited, distressed, or enraged, you can find a poet who feels the same.

**It improves your vocabulary.**

Poetry is full of unconventional word choices which you can use to enhance your language and improve your writing.

**It's a puzzle on paper.**

Poets employ a clever use of language to convey meanings which are often hidden between the lines and we must decipher the poem like a code. It can be fun to break down the text to unveil potential connotations and glimpse into the poet's mind.

**It has rhythm.**

Poetry usually has a rhythm and beat which many argue is easier and more entertaining to read than standard prose.

These are just a few of the reasons why you should choose poetry. **Can you think of any more?**

**Choose a Poem!**

By James Carter

Read it once  
then twice again  
keep that poem  
in your brain

Share it every  
place you go  
share with every  
one you know

Say it loud  
say it slow  
let that rhythm  
really flow

Ring out every  
single word  
so we're in  
that poem's world

Pick a book  
and just get going –  
time for you to  
choose a poem!

© James Carter 2021

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*You can find the Library's poetry collection, marked 821, downstairs towards the back of the room.*

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## The Artists Dismantling the Barriers Between Rap and Poetry

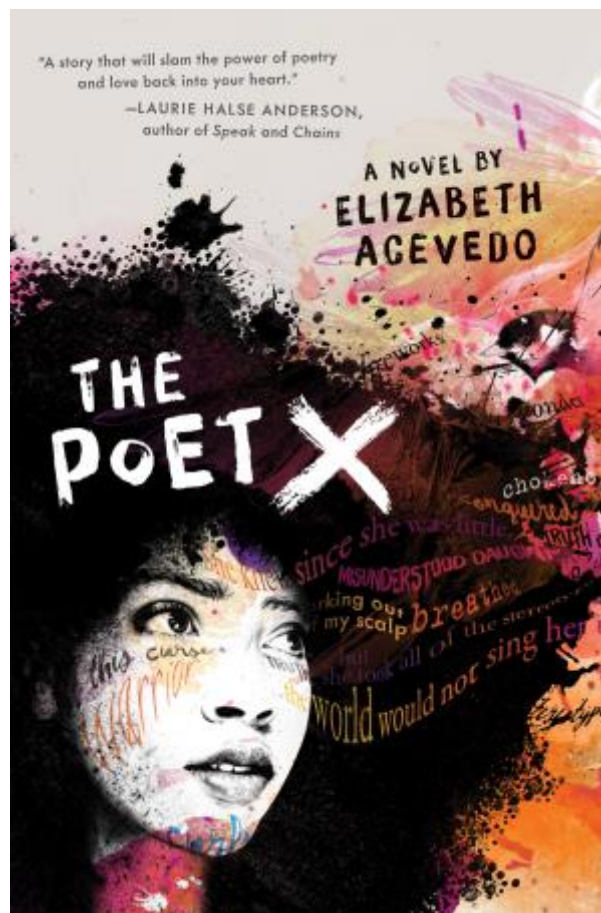
Adam Bradley of the New York Times explores the interlinked relationship between rap and poetry with American rapper Latto in [this refreshing article](#). He fiercely combats the antiquated opinions which continue to vilify both genres.

Bradley writes:

"Today, a [new generation](#) of artists, both rappers and poets, are consciously forging closer kinship between the genres. They draw from a common toolbox of language, use the same social media platforms to reach their audiences and respond to the same economic and political provocations to create public art. In doing so, rappers and the poets who claim affinity with them are resuscitating a body of literary practices mostly neglected in poetry during the 20th century. These ghost appendages of form — repetition, patterned rhythm and, above all, rhyme — thrive in song, especially in rap."

**Adam Bradley 4th March 2021**

Spotlight Book: *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo



1 - [Elizabeth Acevedo](#)

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*Winner of the National Book Award 2018, **The Poet X** is the groundbreaking debut novel by renowned slam Poet, Elizabeth Acevedo. Find it on display in the Berners Library today.*

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"Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. In her Harlem neighbourhood, her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

But X has secrets. Her feelings for a boy in her bio class, the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed - and a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight.

Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent.

A novel about first love and finding your own voice."

**Elizabeth Acevedo 2018**



The [Young Poets Network](#) is a diverse and inclusive community of budding writers and poetry lovers which puts your voice at its centre. It actively supports the UK's vibrant youth poetry culture through events, challenges, and competitions aimed to inspire your creativity.

Join the community on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

POETRY BY  
HEART

The FCPS are holding the final of their annual [Poetry by Heart](#) competition this Thursday. Each student from Year 5 to 8 will recite two poems from memory before a panel of judges for the chance to represent their year and become Junior or Senior Champion. Drawing on classic and contemporary work, the competition celebrates the richness, intimacy, and joy of spoken word.



**Let's wish all participants the best of luck!**

You can find the official Poetry by Heart anthology in the library marked 808.1.

## **Your voice. Your learning. Your library.**

The Berners Library has great potential to become a welcoming space for learning and relaxation alike. This step forward starts with you. Fill out [this form](#) to let us know what you want to see and do here.