

# Pulitzer Prize Winners for Poetry

## 1918 and 1919 special prizes

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Prior to the establishment of the award, the 1918 and 1919 Pulitzer cycles included three [Special Citations](#) (designated contemporaneously as the Columbia University Poetry Prize) for poetry books funded by "a special grant from The Poetry Society."<sup>[1]</sup> See [Special Pulitzers for Letters](#).

- 1918: *Love Songs* by [Sara Teasdale](#)
- 1919: *Cornhuskers* by [Carl Sandburg](#)
- 1919: *The Old Road to Paradise* by [Margaret Widdemer](#)

## Winners

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In its first 92 years to 2013, the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry was awarded 92 times. Two were given in 2008, none in 1946.

### 1920s

- 1922: *Collected Poems* by [Edwin Arlington Robinson](#)
- 1923: "The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver", *A Few Figs from Thistles*, and "Eight Sonnets", by [Edna St. Vincent Millay](#)
- 1924: *New Hampshire: A Poem with Notes and Grace Notes* by [Robert Frost](#)
- 1925: *The Man Who Died Twice* by [Edwin Arlington Robinson](#)
- 1926: *What's O'Clock* by [Amy Lowell](#)
- 1927: *Fiddler's Farewell* by [Leonora Speyer](#)
- 1928: *Tristram* by [Edwin Arlington Robinson](#)
- 1929: *John Brown's Body* by [Stephen Vincent Benét](#)

### 1930s

- 1930: *Selected Poems* by [Conrad Aiken](#)
- 1931: *Collected Poems* by [Robert Frost](#)
- 1932: *The Flowering Stone* by [George Dillon](#)
- 1933: *Conquistador* by [Archibald MacLeish](#)
- 1934: *Collected Verse* by [Robert Hillyer](#)
- 1935: *Bright Ambush* by [Audrey Wurdemann](#)
- 1936: *Strange Holiness* by [Robert P. T. Coffin](#)
- 1937: *A Further Range* by [Robert Frost](#)
- 1938: *Cold Morning Sky* by [Marya Zaturenska](#)
- 1939: *Selected Poems* by [John Gould Fletcher](#)

### 1940s

- 1940: *Collected Poems* by [Mark Van Doren](#)
- 1941: *Sunderland Capture* by [Leonard Bacon](#)
- 1942: *The Dust Which Is God* by [William Rose Benét](#)

- 1943: *A Witness Tree* by Robert Frost
- 1944: *Western Star* by Stephen Vincent Benét
- 1945: *V-Letter and Other Poems* by Karl Shapiro
- 1946: no award given
- 1947: *Lord Weary's Castle* by Robert Lowell
- 1948: *The Age of Anxiety* by W. H. Auden
- 1949: *Terror and Decorum* by Peter Viereck

## 1950s

- 1950: *Annie Allen* by Gwendolyn Brooks
- 1951: *Complete Poems* by Carl Sandburg
- 1952: *Collected Poems* by Marianne Moore
- 1953: *Collected Poems 1917–1952* by Archibald MacLeish
- 1954: *The Waking* by Theodore Roethke
- 1955: *Collected Poems* by Wallace Stevens
- 1956: *Poems: North & South - A Cold Spring* by Elizabeth Bishop
- 1957: *Things of This World* by Richard Wilbur
- 1958: *Promises: Poems 1954-1956* by Robert Penn Warren
- 1959: *Selected Poems 1928-1958* by Stanley Kunitz

## 1960s

- 1960: *Heart's Needle* by W. D. Snodgrass
- 1961: *Times Three: Selected Verse From Three Decades* by Phyllis McGinley
- 1962: *Poems* by Alan Dugan
- 1963: *Pictures from Brueghel* by William Carlos Williams
- 1964: *At The End Of The Open Road* by Louis Simpson
- 1965: *77 Dream Songs* by John Berryman
- 1966: *Selected Poems* by Richard Eberhart
- 1967: *Live or Die* by Anne Sexton
- 1968: *The Hard Hours* by Anthony Hecht
- 1969: *Of Being Numerous* by George Oppen

## 1970s

- 1970: *Untitled Subjects* by Richard Howard
- 1971: *The Carrier of Ladders* by W. S. Merwin
- 1972: *Collected Poems* by James Wright
- 1973: *Up Country* by Maxine Kumin
- 1974: *The Dolphin* by Robert Lowell
- 1975: *Turtle Island* by Gary Snyder
- 1976: *Self-portrait in a Convex Mirror* by John Ashbery
- 1977: *Divine Comedies* by James Merrill
- 1978: *Collected Poems* by Howard Nemerov
- 1979: *Now and Then* by Robert Penn Warren

## 1980s

Indented entries are finalists after each year's winner.

- **1980:** *Selected Poems* by Donald Justice
  - *Goshawk, Antelope* by Dave Smith
  - *Selected Poems* by Richard Hugo
- **1981:** *The Morning of the Poem* by James Schuyler
  - *Selected Poems* by Mark Strand
  - *The Right Madness on Skye* by Richard Hugo
- **1982:** *The Collected Poems* by Sylvia Plath
  - *Dream Flights* by Dave Smith
  - *The Southern Cross* by Charles Wright
- **1983:** *Selected Poems* by Galway Kinnell
  - *Country Music, Selected Early Poems* by Charles Wright
  - *Monolithos, Poems 1962 and 1982* by Jack Gilbert
- **1984:** *American Primitive* by Mary Oliver
  - *Collected Poems, 1930-1982* by Josephine Miles
  - *Weather-Fear: New and Selected Poems* by John Engels
- **1985:** *Yin* by Carolyn Kizer
  - *Ground Work* by Robert Duncan
  - *The Other Side of the River* by Charles Wright
- **1986:** *The Flying Change* by Henry S. Taylor
  - *Saints and Strangers* by Andrew Hudgins
  - *Selected Poems, 1963-1983* by Charles Simic
- **1987:** *Thomas and Beulah* by Rita Dove
  - *The Selected Poetry of Hayden Carruth* by Hayden Carruth
  - *Unending Blues* by Charles Simic
- **1988:** *Partial Accounts: New and Selected Poems* by William Meredith
  - *Flesh and Blood* by C.K. Williams
  - *Good Woman: Poems and a Memoir 1969-1980* and *Next: New Poems* by Lucille Clifton
- **1989:** *New and Collected Poems* by Richard Wilbur
  - *The One Day* by Donald Hall
  - *The River of Heaven* by Garrett Hongo

## 1990s

Indented entries are finalists after each year's winner.

- **1990:** *The World Doesn't End* by Charles Simic
  - *Selected and Last Poems* by Paul Zweig
  - *Time's Power* by Adrienne Rich
- **1991:** *Near Changes* by Mona Van Duyn
  - *Leaving Another Kingdom* by Gerald Stern
  - *The Transparent Man* by Anthony Hecht
- **1992:** *Selected Poems* by James Tate
  - *An Atlas of the Difficult World* by Adrienne Rich
  - *Selected Poems* by Robert Creeley
- **1993:** *The Wild Iris* by Louise Glück
  - *Hotel Lautreamont* by John Ashbery

- *Selected Poems 1946-1985* by James Merrill
- 1994: *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems* by Yusef Komunyakaa
  - *Bright Existence* by Brenda Hillman
  - *The Metamorphoses of Ovid* by Allen Mandelbaum
- 1995: *The Simple Truth* by Philip Levine
  - *Cosmopolitan Greetings: Poems 1986-1992* by Allen Ginsberg
  - *On The Great Atlantic Rainway: Selected Poems 1950-1988* and *One Train* by Kenneth Koch
- 1996: *The Dream of the Unified Field* by Jorie Graham
  - *Chickamauga* by Charles Wright
  - *New and Selected Poems* by Donald Justice
- 1997: *Alive Together: New and Selected Poems* by Lisel Mueller
  - *The Figured Wheel* by Robert Pinsky
  - *The Willow Grove* by Laurie Sheck
- 1998: *Black Zodiac* by Charles Wright
  - *Desire* by Frank Bidart
  - *The Vigil* by C.K. Williams
- 1999: *Blizzard of One* by Mark Strand
  - *Going Fast* by Frederick Seidel
  - *Mysteries of Small Houses* by Alice Notley

## 2000s

Indented entries are finalists after each year's winner. Two prizes were awarded in 2008.

- 2000: *Repair* by C. K. Williams
  - *Elegy for the Southern Drawl* by Rodney Jones
  - *Midnight Salvage: Poems 1995-1998* by Adrienne Rich
- 2001: *Different Hours* by Stephen Dunn
  - *Pursuit of a Wound* by Sydney Lea
  - *The Other Lover* by Bruce Smith
- 2002: *Practical Gods* by Carl Dennis
  - *The Beforelife* by Franz Wright
  - *The Seven Ages* by Louise Glück
- 2003: *Moy Sand and Gravel* by Paul Muldoon
  - *Hazmat* by J. D. McClatchy
  - *Music Like Dirt* by Frank Bidart
- 2004: *Walking to Martha's Vineyard* by Franz Wright
  - *Eyeshot* by Heather McHugh
  - *Middle Earth* by Henri Cole
- 2005: *Delights & Shadows* by Ted Kooser
  - *Search Party: Collected Poems* by William Matthews
  - *The Orchard* by Brigit Pegeen Kelly
- 2006: *Late Wife* by Claudia Emerson
  - *American Sublime* by Elizabeth Alexander
  - *Elegy on Toy Piano* by Dean Young
- 2007: *Native Guard* by Natasha Trethewey
  - *Interrogation Palace: New & Selected Poems 1982-2004* by David Wojahn
  - *The Republic of Poetry* by Martín Espada

- 2008: *Time and Materials* by Robert Hass and *Failure* by Philip Schultz
  - *Messenger: New and Selected Poems, 1976-2006* by Ellen Bryant Voigt
- 2009: *The Shadow of Sirius* by W. S. Merwin
  - *Watching the Spring Festival* by Frank Bidart
  - *What Love Comes To: New & Selected Poems* by Ruth Stone

## 2010s

Indented entries are finalists after each year's winner.

- 2010: *Versed* by Rae Armantrout
  - *Inseminating the Elephant* by Lucia Perillo
  - *Tryst* by Angie Estes
- 2011: *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems* by Kay Ryan
  - *Break the Glass* by Jean Valentine
  - *The Common Man* by Maurice Manning
- 2012: *Life on Mars* by Tracy K. Smith
  - *Core Samples from the World* by Forrest Gander
  - *How Long* by Ron Padgett
- 2013: *Stag's Leap* by Sharon Olds
  - *Collected Poems* by Jack Gilbert
  - *The Abundance of Nothing* by Bruce Weigl
- 2014: *3 Sections* by Vijay Seshadri
  - *The Big Smoke* by Adrian Matejka
  - *The Sleep of Reason* by Morri Creech
- 2015: *Digest* by Gregory Pardlo
  - *Compass Rose* by Arthur Sze
  - *Reel to Reel* by Alan Shapiro
- 2016: *Ozone Journal* by Peter Balakian
  - *Alive: New and Selected Poems* by Elizabeth Willis
  - *Four-Legged Girl* by Diane Seuss
- 2017: *Olio* by Tyehimba Jess
  - *Collected Poems: 1950-2012* by Adrienne Rich
  - *XX* by Campbell McGrath
- 2018: *Half-Light: Collected Poems 1965-2016* by Frank Bidart
  - *Incendiary Art*, by Patricia Smith
  - *semiautomatic*, by Evie Shockley
- 2019: *Be With* by Forrest Gander
  - *feeld* by Jos Charles
  - *Like* by A.E. Stallings

## Repeat winners

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Robert Frost won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry four times from 1924 to 1943. Edwin Arlington Robinson won three prizes during the 1920s and several people have won two.

- Edwin Arlington Robinson, 1922, 1925, 1928
- Robert Frost, 1924, 1931, 1937, 1943
- Stephen Vincent Benét, 1929, 1944
- Archibald MacLeish, 1933, 1953

- Robert Lowell, 1947, 1974
- Richard Wilbur, 1957, 1989
- Robert Penn Warren, 1958, 1979
- William S. Merwin, 1971, 2009

Carl Sandburg won one of the special prizes for his poetry in 1919 and won the Poetry Pulitzer in 1951.