



African-American Poets Recitation Project

Assignment: During the month of February, choose and memorize for dramatic class presentation the last week of February a poem of 14 or more lines by an African-American poet. If you find a poem of 28 or more lines that you would like to present as a duet, get teacher permission first. You may even do a group presentation in the form of a choral reading. Just be certain that each member of the group has at least 14 lines of his/her own to memorize.

Pick a poet whose work you will enjoy memorizing and presenting.

You are not limited to the poets on this list. Remember no duplicate poems. So, select two or three, check the list, and then sign up. When checking the card catalog or doing an Internet search, remember the terms Negro and Black are sometimes used interchangeably with African-American to identify literature of this ethnic group.

1. Angelou, Maya
2. Baraka, Amiri
3. Bontemps, Arna
4. Braithwaite, William S.
5. Brooks, Gwendolyn
6. Brown, Sterling
7. Dove, Rita
8. Dudley, Randall
9. Dunbar, Paul Laurence
10. Evans, Mari
11. Giovanni, Nikki
12. Harper, Michael
13. Hayden, Robert
14. Henderson, Safiya
15. Hughes, Langston
16. Hurston, Zora Neale
17. Johnson, James Weldon
18. Johnson, Fenton
19. Jordon, June
20. Knight, Etheridge
21. McKay, Claude
22. Neal, Larry
23. Reed, Ishmael
24. Sanchez, Sonia
25. Shange, Ntozake
26. Shakur, Tupac
27. Toomer, Jean
28. Troupe, Quincy
29. Walker, Margaret
30. Wonder, Stevie
31. Young, Al
32. Your choice

