"Poetry is like air. It's one of the necessary things. Everyone benefits from poetry."

- Naomi Shihab Nye

Poetry can make us pause, notice, laugh, reflect, recognize, empathize, and/or discover. Through free verse, epistolary poems, how-to poems, and novels in verse, the following collections get to the heart of our social and emotional lives, no matter how young, or old we might be.

**Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship**
by Irene Latham and Charles Waters; Sean Qualls and Selina Alko (Illustrators)
Carolrhoda Books, 2018 - (Grades 4-6)

**Crossover**
by Kwame Alexander
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014 - (Grades 5 and up)

**Dear Substitute**
by Liz Garton Scanlon and Audrey Vernick; Chris Raschka (Illustrator)
Hyperion, 2018 - (Grades 2-5)

**Every Month is a New Year**
by Marilyn Singer; Susan L. Roth (Illustrator)
Lee & Low Books, 2018 - (Grades 1-5)

**I Am Loved**
by Nikki Giovanni; Ashley Bryan (Illustrator)
Atheneum, 2018 - (Grades K-3)

**Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets**
by Kwame Alexander, with Chris Colderly and Marjory Wentworth; Ekua Holmes (Illustrator)
Candlewick, 2017 - (Grades 3-6)

**The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog and Other How-To Poems**
selected by Paul B. Janeczko; Richard Jones (Illustrator)
Candlewick, 2019 - (Grades 1-3)

**This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness**
by Joyce Sidman; Pamela Zagarenski (Illustrator)
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, 2007 - (Grades 3-5)

**Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners**
by Naomi Shihab Nye
Greenwillow Books, 2018 - (Grades 5 and up)

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