

**SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL  
LEARNING**

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*“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)

For more children's literature suggestions visit our website at [www.open-circle.org](http://www.open-circle.org) and look under **RESOURCES/Children's Literature**.

