

# Beginner's Poetry Bibliography

By Dr. Gregory Edward Reynolds

## Whet Your Appetite with Children's Poetry

Robert Louis Stevenson, *A Child's Garden of Verses*

T. S. Eliot, *The Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (especially good is one with drawings by Edward Gorey)

Hilaire Belloc, *Cautionary Tales for Children*

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## Reference Tools

James Trott, ed., *A Sacrifice of Praise: An Anthology of Christian Poetry in English from Caedmon to the Mid-Twentieth Century* (Nashville: Cumberland House, 2006, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia, *An Introduction to Poetry* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) (New York: Harper Collins, 1994). 10<sup>th</sup> edition is 2007.

Harold Bloom, ed., *The Best Poems of the English Language: From Chaucer through Frost* (New York: HarperCollins, 2004)

Babette Deutsch, *Poetry Handbook: A Dictionary of Terms* (New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1962, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).

W. H. Auden, "Night Mail" [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzrrefV-UWw>]

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## More Advanced Works

Camille Paglia, *Blow, Break, Burn*

Charles Grosvenor Osgood, *Poetry as a Means of Grace*

Harold Bloom, *The Best Poems of the English Language*.

Leland Ryken, *The Soul in Paraphrase*

Helen Vendler, *The Art of Shakespeare's Sonnets*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Poets Thinking: Pope, Whitman, Dickinson, Yeats*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Invisible Listeners: Lyric Intimacy in Herbert, Whitman, and Ashbery*

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Poetry of George Herbert is superb.*

Wilcox, *The English Poems of George Herbert.*

Jim Scott Orrick, *A Year with George Herbert: A Guide to Fifty-Two of His Best Loved Poems*

Jane Kenyon, *Otherwise: New and Selected Poems*

Sven Birkerts, *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age* (1994).

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Electric Life: Essays on Modern Poetry.* (1989).

David West, *Shakespeare's Sonnets.*

Czeslaw Milosz, *The Witness of Poetry*

David Lyle Jeffrey, *Scripture and the English Poetic Imagination*

W.H. Auden, *The Dyer's Hand*