

My Work as a Poet
David L. Harrison
Through May 2, 2026

- **Poems read or displayed in public places**

Poem sandblasted into library sidewalk, Phoenix, AZ

Poem painted around a bookmobile, Pueblo, CO

Poem read as Missouri Poet Laureate in Drury University's Stone Chapel

Poem read at Drury University's 150th Anniversary and Commencement Ceremony in O'Reilly Family Event Center, seating capacity 3,000+

Poem read as a featured personality on the national video, The Story of Art in America – Route 66

Poem read at inauguration of Drury's 19th president in O'Reilly Family Event Center

Poem read at Route 66 Centennial Celebration in Great Southern Arena at MSU for 6-hour party headlined by John Goodman; seating capacity 11,000

Poem read at Route 66 gala ball in Shrine Mosque, seating capacity 4,000+

Poem read during Route 66 Centennial Celebration at dedication of Founders Park on footprint of former Colonial Hotel

Poem read during Route 66 Centennial Celebration to kick off a parade of 700 classic cars, motorcycles, and entries

Poem read during Route 66 Centennial Celebration at dedication of \$1 million Queen City Gate sculpture

- **Honorary Appointments**

Poet Laureate, Drury University (1983-present)

Poet Laureate, Missouri (2023-2025)

Poet Laureate, National Route 66 Centennial Celebration (2026)

Poet Laureate, Colonels Group of Distinguished Missourians and Community Leaders, Cherry Blossom Festival, Mansfield, MO (2025 – present)

- **Major projects**

- Published 60 weekly poetry columns in five newspapers in three states with a combined readership of 105,000. The columns featured poets, editors, journalists, librarians, teachers, and professors in four countries.

- Created a free video library featuring 50 contributors to the column reading their work. *Poetry from Daily Life Free Video Library*, is available anywhere in the world where WiFi is accessible. <https://www.youtube.com/@PoetryfromDailyLife-e2j>

- **Selected Recognitions**

- Selected for NSTA's 2019 list of Outstanding Science Trade Books

- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice, Awards Program Master List, 2019 – 2020
- Bank Street Best Books of the Year List, 2019
- ILA Teachers' Choices List, 2019
- IRA/CBC Children's Choice, 1997
- Kansas State Reading Circle list, 1997-98
- Missouri State Reading Council Seal of Approval, 1998
- Translation into Portuguese in Brazil, 2025
- Translation into Korean, 2026
- On Betsy Bird list for Newbery candidate
- Bank Street College Best Books list for 2024
- "Seeing Stories" exhibition at the Westchester Art Center, 2007
- New York Public Library's annual list of "100 Children's Books for Reading and Sharing", 2007
- NCTE Notable Poetry Books, 2008
- Featured (cover on overhead screen, poems read on stage) in the Dayton, Ohio Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Dayton Ballet II concert: BUGS!!, 2014, 2022
- Selected by Missouri Center for the Book to represent Missouri at the National Book Fair in Washington D.C., 2018
- Named by NCTE as a Notable Book of Children's Poetry, 2019
- Nominated for Texas Bluebonnet Award, 2012
- Nominated for Cybils Award, 2012
- Nominated for Spur Award, 2012
- South Dakota Children's Book Awards reading list for 2014-15
- Chosen by Society of Midland Authors as best children's nonfiction book published in 2016
- NCTE Notable Poetry Book
- Red Poppy Award nominee, Georgetown, Texas, 2017
- Kansas State Reading Circle List, 2009
- NCTE Notable Poetry Books, 2008
- VOYA's Nonfiction Honor List, 2009
- Texas Bluebonnet Master Reading List, 2010-2011
- Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award Master Reading List, 2011-2012
- Selected by Missouri Center for the Book to represent Missouri at the National Book Fair in Washington D.C., 2013
- IRA/CBC Children's Choice, 1994
- Kentucky Blue Grass Award nominee, 1994
- Missouri State Reading Council Seal of Approval, 1998
- St. Louis Post Dispatch Best Books for Young Readers, 2006
- The Hawaii State Public Library annual annotated bibliography of science trade books, 2007
- Kansas State Reading Circle list, 2007
- Named as one of eleven "Can't Miss" poetry books on "2021 Poetry: Versification for the Masses," for School Library Journal, 2021

- Art from the book displayed in New York City at The Society of Illustrators “Original Art” exhibit. This exhibit showcases original art from the year’s best children’s books as determined by a jury of outstanding illustrators, art directors, and editors.
- 2022 Notable Books: NCTE’s 21 Best Poetry and Verse Novels for Kids
- Named by New York City Public Libraries as one of the six best books of children’s poetry published in 2021. Three of the poets are from Argentina, Chili, and Haiti.
- Named by National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to its 2022 list of Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12.
- On master list of finalists for the state of Kansas Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award.
- Texas Bluebonnet 2023-2024 Master List
- SLJ Best Books of Poetry for Young People, 2024
- The North Carolina Children's Book Award program, 1 of 12 contenders for the 2026 NC Junior Book Award .
- Best Books for Young Adults nominee, 1999

- **Books of Poetry**

Personal collections published – 23
 Teaching strategy collaborations – 17
 Number of poems published – 1,500

- **Trade Book Collections**

Harrison, David L, WILD BRUNCH, POEMS ABOUT HOW ANIMALS EAT, MA: Charlesbridge, 2024

Harrison, David L, A TREE IS A COMMUNITY, NYC: Holiday House, 2024

Harrison, David L, THE DIRST BOOK, POEMS ABOUT ANIMALS BENEATH OUR FEET, NYC: Holiday House, 2021

Harrison, David L, AFTER DARK: POEMS ABOUT NOCTURNAL ANIMALS. PA: Boyds Mills & Kane, 2020

Harrison, David L, A PLACE TO START A FAMILY, POEMS ABOUT CREATURES THAT BUILD. MA: Charlesbridge, 2018

Harrison, David L, CRAWLY SCHOOL FOR BUGS. PA: Boyds Mills & Kane, 2018

Harrison, David L, NOW YOU SEE THEM NOW YOU DON'T, POEMS ABOUT CREATURES THAT HIDE. MA: Charlesbridge, 2016

Harrison, David L, COWBOYS, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2011

Harrison, David L, VACATION, WE'RE GOING TO THE OCEAN!. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-59078-568-3

Harrison, David L, PIRATES. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2008. ISBN 978-1-59078-455-6

Harrison, David L, BUGS, POEMS ABOUT CREEPING THINGS. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-1-59078-451-8, ISBN-10: 1-59078-451-0

Harrison, David L, SOUNDS OF RAIN. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-1-59078-442-6, ISBN 10: 1-59078-442-1

Harrison, David L, FARMER'S DOG GOES TO THE FOREST. PA; Boyds Mills Press, 2005. ISBN 1-59078-242-9.

Harrison, David L, CONNECTING DOTS, POEMS OF MY JOURNEY. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2004. ISBN 1-59078-260-7.

Harrison, David L, THE MOUSE WAS OUT AT RECESS. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2003. ISBN 1-56397-550-5.

Harrison, David L, THE ALLIGATOR IN THE CLOSET. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2003. ISBN 1-56397-994-2.

Harrison, David L, FARMER'S GARDEN. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2000. ISBN 1-56397-776-1.

Harrison, David L, WILD COUNTRY. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1999. ISBN 1-56397-784-2.

Harrison, David L, THE PURCHASE OF SMALL SECRETS. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1998. ISBN 1-56397-054-6.

Harrison, David L, A THOUSAND COUSINS. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1996. ISBN 1-56397-131-3.

Harrison, David L. THE BOY WHO COUNTED STARS. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1994. ISBN 1-56397-125-9.

Harrison, David L, SOMEBODY CATCH MY HOMEWORK. PA: Boyds Mills Press, 1993. ISBN 1-878093-87-8 (hardback) and 1-56397-520-3 (paperback).

- **Teaching Strategy Books**

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, THE PHONICS HANDBOOK POETRY COLLECTION: 101 DECODABLE POEMS FOR REINFORCING SOUNDS LETTER PATTERNS. Benchmark 2026

David L. Harrison and Tim Rasinski, 40 POEMS FOR 40 WEEKS, INTEGRATING MEANINGFUL POEMS AND WORD LADDERS INTO GRADES 3-5 LITERACY, Routledge/Taylor and Francis 2024

Lynne Kulich, Tim Rasinski, and David L. Harrison, THE FLUENCY DEVELOPMENT LESSON, CLOSING THE READING GAP. Benchmark, 2024

David L. Harrison, Tim Rasinski, and Mary Jo Fresch, PARTNER POEMS AND WORD LADDERS FOR BUILDING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS, GRADES K-2. NYC: Scholastic, 2022

David L. Harrison, Tim Rasinski, and Mary Jo Fresch, PARTNER POEMS AND WORD LADDERS FOR BUILDING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS, GRADES 1-3. NYC: Scholastic, 2022

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, EMPOWERING STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF VOCABULARY. NCTE, 2020

David L. Harrison and Mary Jo Fresch, 7 KEYS TO RESEARCH FOR WRITING SUCCESS. NYC, Scholastic 2017

David L. Harrison and Tim Rasinski. RHYMES FOR THE TIME: LITERACY STRATEGIES THROUGH SOCIAL STUDIES. CA: Shell, 2016

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, LEARNING THROUGH POETRY: CONSONANTS. CA: Shell, 2013

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, LEARNING THROUGH POETRY: CONSONANT BLENDS AND DIAGRAPHES. CA: Shell, 2013

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, LEARNING THROUGH POETRY: RIMES. CA: Shell, 2013

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, LEARNING THROUGH POETRY: SHORT VOWELS. CA: Shell, 2013

Mary Jo Fresch and David L. Harrison, LEARNING THROUGH POETRY: LONG VOWELS. CA: Shell, 2013

Harrison, David L and Fresch, Mary Jo. USING POETRY TO TEACH PHONEMIC AWARENESS. NY: Scholastic, 2011

Rasinski, Timothy; Harrison, David L; and Fawcett, Gay. PARTNER POEMS FOR BUILDING FLUENCY: 40 TWO-VOICE POEMS WITH MOTIVATING ACTIVITIES THAT HELP STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR FLUENCY AND COMPREHENSION. NY: Scholastic, 2009

Harrison, David L and Holderith, Kathy. USING THE POWER OF POETRY TO TEACH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, MATH, AND MORE. NY: Scholastic 2003.

Harrison, David L and Cullinan, Bernice. EASY POETRY LESSONS THAT DAZZLE AND DELIGHT. NY: Scholastic, 1999.