

Poetry in bloom: the poets



George Eliot

1819-1880

George Eliot was born Mary Ann Evans in Warwickshire, England. She began her literary career translating German philosophy. Later, she moved to London and became an editor of *The Westminster Review*.

**"It never will
rain roses:
when we want
to have more
roses, we must
plant more
trees."**

Widely considered one of the greatest English writers of her era, she is known for the eight novels she published under the name George Eliot, including *Middlemarch* (1871) and *Silas Marner* (1861). Her two collections of poetry, *The Legend of Jubal* (1874) and *The Spanish Gypsy* (1868), are less well known.

- adapted from Poets.org

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Elizabeth Curtis Holman 1879-?

Relatively little is known about Elizabeth Curtis Holman. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and later lived in Waterville, Maine. She was the plaintiff in a 1914 United States Federal Court ruling on forced institutionalization. Her writing appeared, under various names, in *The Crisis* and other literary magazines. Works include translations of sections of the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam, as well as drama and poetry.

- adapted from Poets.org and Wikipedia

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José Martí

1853-1895

José Julián Martí y Pérez is a Cuban national hero and a prominent figure in Latin American literature. After being exiled, Martí studied in Madrid, and later lived and traveled widely in Europe, Latin America, and the U.S.

**"Books
console us,
calm us,
prepare us,
enrich us, and
redeem us."**

In addition to a publishing and teaching career, Martí was a crucial figure in Cuba's fight for independence from Spain. He designed the Cuban Revolutionary Party and started multiple political newspapers. His other writing includes poetry, essays, letters, lectures, a novel, and a children's magazine.

- adapted from Poets.org and Wikipedia

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Poetry in bloom: the poets



Jennifer Barber

Jennifer Barber has been the Poet Laureate of Brookline since 2021. Her prize-winning poetry collections include *The Sliding Boat Our Bodies Made*, *Works on Paper*, *Given Away*, and *Rigging the Wind*. Her poems have appeared in many anthologies, magazines, and journals. She is also co-editor of the anthology *Tree Lines: 21st Century American Poems*.

Jennifer is the founding editor of *Salamander: A Magazine for Poetry, Fiction, and Memoirs*, and served as its editor-in-chief from 1992 to 2018. She has taught at Suffolk, Wellesley, Bradford, and Brookline Adult & Community Education.

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Valerie Worth

1933-1994

Acclaimed poet Valerie Worth was born in Philadelphia. She was most widely known for her "small poems," composed in simple free verse. Four volumes were published, all with illustrations by Natalie Babbitt. She also wrote fiction for adults and young people.

In 1991, the National Council of Teachers of English honored Worth with its award for Excellence in Poetry for Children, given for a body of work. Since the 1950s, her poems have been included in numerous anthologies.

- adapted from Macmillan
and the New York Times

**"Never let the
mud puddle get
lost in the poetry,
because in many
ways, the mud
puddle is the
poetry."**

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