

Updated Collection: Modern American Poetry

Introduction and User Needs Assessment

Like many California high schools, Sonoma Valley is a school in flux. Data examined shows that in the last twenty years the school has changed from a rural, homogeneous population, to a school divided between an affluent Anglo group and a growing Latino population. According to the US Census Bureau for Sonoma County [<http://factfinder.census.gov>], 21 % of the population of the county is now Latino; a CDE website places the Sonoma High population at 36% Latino, with 28% of these receiving free or reduced school lunch, a federal poverty indicator. [<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/OnlineData/HSOutreach.asp?CDSCode=49709534937256>]. CDE websites also display the drop in test scores at the school, indicating a need for increased literacy and academic support.

It is the goal of Sonoma Valley's WASC and Local Action plans to close the achievement gap, preparing more students for entry into a four-year college, and also to redesign instruction and school culture to increase student engagement with school activities. As one part of this effort, the librarian pursued and was awarded a \$500 grant from the California Association of Teachers of English for use in purchasing material to modernize the library poetry collection.

Collection Objectives

The objectives of this updated collection are three-fold: first, to provide 9-12 curricular support material, second, to reflect the changing demographics of the school and community, and third, to provide engaging material for independent student use which encourages both further reading and personal creativity. The existing collection reflects the accepted canon for American poetry of the past as recognized in the 1970's, the last major period of significant purchasing in this area for the school. Although new and update editions of the existing collection are also needed, this grant focuses on the acquisition of new titles.

Intended Scope

New titles for the collection will fall under one of three categories. First, representative work of major American poets who primarily published after 1960 must be added to the collection; this a need described repeatedly by teachers. Also, poetry of literary value by people of color, especially Chicano poetry and Spanish/English additions must be added in support the school goal of closing the achievement gap and creating an inclusive and academic culture. In addition, just as the YA fiction section contains both work adjudged of literary merit and work included because it is popular and engaging, poetry by teens and poetry in modern and engaging format must be included. This would encompass not only CD's or DVD's, but also alternative poetic printed content, such as rap or slam

lyrics. These purchases are intended to increase student engagement and to encourage student use of the library media center.

Selection Tools

Rather than making specific title recommendations, teachers gave general guidelines for the purchases which were consistent and clear. These guidelines are the source of the three goals for poetry purchases. In addition, teachers expressed a preference and greater need for individual volumes devoted to the work of one poet rather than large anthologies. In implementing these guidelines selection guides have been used to assist in identifying work of recognized importance and literary value, and also to discover material identified as engaging and popular. Several major selection tools were used. An important resource was *Modern American Poetry*, a website maintained by Cary Nelson at the University of Illinois as a digital companion to the Oxford Book of American Poetry, of which he was the editor. Another tool was the class syllabus for Al Filreis' English 88 class at the University of Pennsylvania. Filreis is a revered expert on modern poetry and academic instruction. The YALSA *Outstanding Books for the College Bound* poetry list was a useful resource. The indispensable *School Library Journal* and *Booklist* were also used. The foundational tool used to formulate the collection was the excellent California Department of Education Recommended Literature K-12 searchable list. For choosing serials, noted poet and educator Frederick Glaser maintains a website devoted to reviews and information on poetry magazines and journals, and the ALAN (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents—a subgroup of the National Council of Teachers of English) website reviews magazines—both proved useful.

Publisher List

City Lights Publishers. Available online:
<http://www.citylights.com/publishing/>

A San Francisco icon, City Lights was founded by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti in 1955, in connection with the bookstore of the same name. Beginning with the beloved Pocket Poets Series, City Lights has provided the best of beat poetry and new avante garde work.

W.W. Norton and Company, Inc. Available online:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/aboutcontent.aspx?id=4386>

Founded in 1923, Norton is employee-owned. Besides publishing the eponymous and indispensable anthologies of literature, Norton publishes some of the most respected current poets.

HarperCollins/ HarperTeen. Available online:

<http://www.harpercollins.com/>

Currently owned by Rupert Murdoch, HarperCollins is representative of the modern publishing conglomerate. Originally formed by the merger of two older companies, William Collins, Sons, and Harper and Row, the company has grown through

acquisitions and now contains over thirty imprints, including Avon, Caedmon, Zondervan, and Greenwillow.

Summary/Recommendations

These additions create a basic collection which fulfills the three goals of the improvement. As additional funding becomes available, the collection could be strengthened by adding high interest-low reading level works, additional ethnic or cultural-specific anthologies, and additional titles by contemporary authors as new work is published.

Order List

BOOKS

Author	Title	Pub Date	Producer/Publisher	ISBN/ISSN	Retail Price	Discount Price	Binding	Justification
Angelou, Maya	The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou	1994	Random House	067942895X	\$25.95	\$15.57	HB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Baca, Jimmy Santiago	Selected Poems/Poemas Selectos	2009	New Directions	0811218163 0811218160	\$16.95	\$16.95	PB	MAP
Baraka, Amiri	Transbluesency: The Selected Poetry of Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones (1961-1995)	1995	Marsilio	1568860145 978-1568860145	\$17.95	\$10.77	PB	88
Beatty, Paul	Joker, Joker, Deuce	1994	Penguin	9780140587	\$24.33	\$14.61	PB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Begay, Shonto	Navajo: Visions and Voices Across the Mesa	1995	Scholastic	590461540 0374266417	\$34.20	\$20.52	PB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Blum,Joshua (Author, Holman, Bob (Author), Pellington , Mark (Author)	The United States of Poetry	1996	Harry N. Abrams	0810939274 0810939271	\$29.95	\$17.97	HB	YALSA

Brodsky, Joseph	So Forth	1998	Farrar, Straus and Giroux	0374266417 0374266417	\$18.00	\$11.00	HB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Carlson, Lori M. (ed)	Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States (Spanish Edition)	1995	Perfection Learning	0780764358 0780764354	\$14.65	\$8.80	HB	YALSA/SLJ
Collins, Billy	The Trouble with Poetry: And Other Poems	2007	Random House	0375755217 0375755217	\$18.95	\$13.25	PB	BKLIST
Dietz, Maggie (Editor), and Pinsky, Robert (Editor)	Americans' Favorite Poems	1999	W.W.Norton and Company	0393048209 978- 0393048209	\$27.50	\$16.50	HB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Dunning, Stephen	Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle	1967	HarperTeen	0688412319	\$19.99	\$12.00	HB	YALSA
Ferlinghetti, Lawrence	A Coney Island of the Mind (50th Anniversary Edition)	2008	New Directions	0811217477 0811217477	\$23.95	\$16.77	HB	88
Fleischman, Paul	Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices	2004	HarperCollins	0064460932 0064460934	\$5.99	\$3.50	PB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Franco, Betsy, ed	Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls	2001	Candlewick	763610356 0763610357	\$8.99	\$5.40	PB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12
Franco, Betsy, ed.	You Hear Me? Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys	2008	Candlewick	1435295609 1435295605	\$15.99	\$11.20	LB	CDE Recommended Lit 9-12; Booklist, SLJ
Gillan, Maria Maziotti (Editor), Gillan, Jennifer	Unsettling America	2008		439509336 1439509333	\$27.00	\$18.90	LB	YALSA

(Editor)								
Ginsberg, Allen	Howl and Other Poems	2008	City Lights	1439563985 1439563984	\$15.95	\$11.17	LB	88
Lai, Him Mark (Author), Lim , Genny (Author), Yung, Judy (Author)	Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940	1999	Universit of Washington Press	0295971096 0295971094	\$22.50	\$13.50	PB	MAP
Nye, Naomi Shihab (Author)	Tree Is Older Than You Are: A Bilingual Gathering of Poems & Stories from Mexico With Paintings by Mexican Artists (Spanish Language Ed.)	1998	Aladdin	0689820879 0689820878	\$15.00	\$9.00	PB	YALSA
O'Hara, Frank	Lunch Poems	2001	City Lights	0872860353 0872860353	\$8.95	\$6.27	PB	88
Oliver, Mary	New and Selected Poems: Volume One	2005	Beacon Press	0807068780 0807068786	\$30.00	\$22.00	HB	YALSA
Plath, Sylvia	Plath: Poems	1998	Everyman's Library	0375404643 0375404641	\$13.50	\$8.10	HB	MAP
Reed, Ishmael	From Totems to Hip Hop: A Multicultural Anthology of Poetry Across America (Hardcover)	2002	Da Capo	1560255005 1560255000	\$21.95	\$15.37	HB	MAP, Bklist
Shakur, Tupac	The Rose that Grew from Concrete	2009	MTV	0671028456 0671028459	16	16	PB	SLJ
Snyder, Gary	Riprap and Cold Mountain Poems	2009	Counterpoint	1582435413 1582435411	24	24	HB	88

Encumbrance \$339.12
Sub-Total:

SERIALS

Producer/Publisher	Title	Retail Price - Subscription	Discount Price	Justification
American Poetry Review	Poetry	45	\$40.50	Glaysher
Poetry Foundation	American Poetry Review	\$23.70	\$21.40	Glaysher
The Young Authors Foundation, Inc.	Teen Ink	35	\$31.50	ALAN (NCTE)
Encumbrance Sub-Total:			\$93.40	

OTHER FORMATS

Performer/Publisher	Title	Date	ISBN	Retail Price	Discount Price	Justification
Freeman, Mark, Filmbaby.com/films	Poetry Live(s).	2007		20	\$17.00	Poetry Magazine
Eleveld (Author) Sourcebooks/Media Fusion	The Spoken Word Revolution (PB) with Audio CD	2005	402200374 1402200373	19.95	\$16.96	Booklist
Paschen , Elisa(Author), and Mosby, Rebekah Presson Sourcebooks Media Fusion	Poetry Speaks: Hear Great Poets Read Their Work from Tennyson to Plath (Book and 3 Audio CDs) (Hardcover)	2001	1570717206 978- 1570717208	49.95	\$42.46	SLJ
Peninsula Film (Producers).	The Poetry Lounge DVD.	2004	930545-99-1	49.95	\$42.46	SLJ

Roetzheim, William H. (Editor)	The Giant Book of Poetry Complete Audio Set. 19 CDs. retail ed. unabridged.	2008	933769-40- 0	29.95	\$25.46	LJ
-----------------------------------	---	------	-----------------	-------	---------	----

Encumbrance Sub-Total: 144.34

BOOKS: 339.12
SERIALS: 93.40
OTHER FORMATS: 144.34
576.86

Resource List

ALAN

<http://www.alan-ya.org/2008/08/teen-ink/>

California Department of Education Recommended Literature K-12

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/il/>

Filreis, Al. *English 88-- Modern & Contemporary American Poetry*

<http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88v/schedule00a.html>

Glaysher, Frederick. *Poetry & Literary Magazines, Reviews, Ezines - 2010*

<http://www.fglaysher.com/LitLinks.htm>

Modern American Poetry

<http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/>