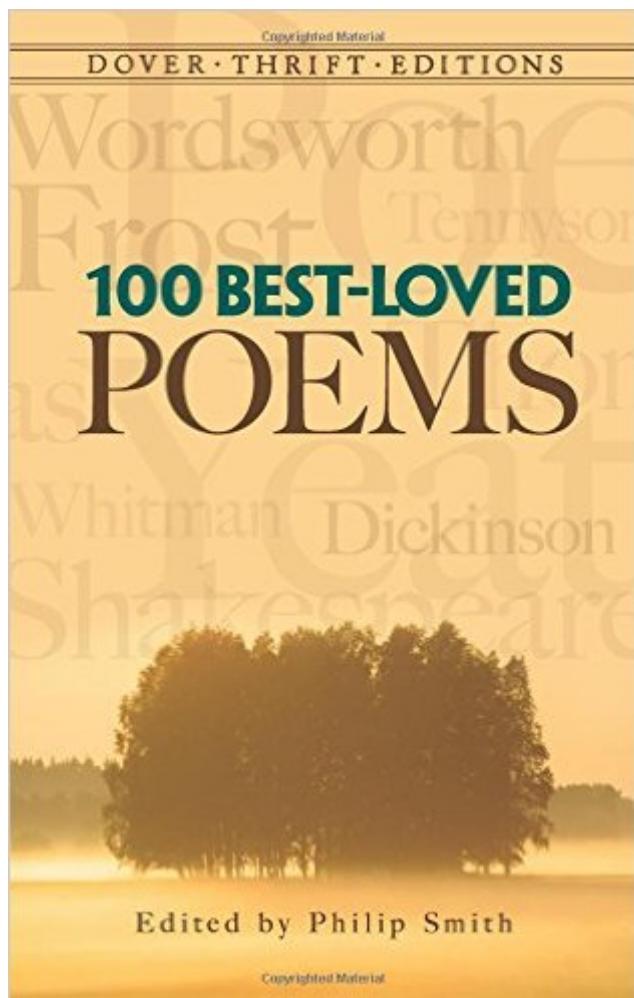


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# 100 Best-Loved Poems (Dover Thrift Editions)



## **Synopsis**

Popular, well-known poetry: "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love," "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" "Death, be not proud," "The Raven," "The Road Not Taken," plus works by Blake, Wordsworth, Byron, Coleridge, Shelley, Emerson, Browning, Keats, Kipling, Sandburg, Pound, Auden, Thomas, and many others. Includes 13 selections from the Common Core State Standards Initiative: "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Fog," "Chicago," "Jabberwocky," "O Captain! My Captain!" "The Road Not Taken," "Musee des Beaux Arts," "Ozymandias," "Sonnet 73," "The Raven," "Because I Could Not Stop for Death," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," and "The River Merchant's Wife: A Letter."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Philip Smith has assembled a very good sampling of the best poetry in the English language. We read Marlowe, Shakespeare, Donne, Jonson, Herrick, Milton, Gray, Blake, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, both Brownings, Longfellow, Poe, Whitman, Dickinson, Hardy, Housman, Yeats, Frost, Pound, Millay, Cummings, Auden, Dylan Thomas, and many others. This inexpensive Dover edition is an excellent buy. The collection is as advertised: these are the best-loved poems in the English language. These are familiar poems, poems that are accessible to casual readers of poetry, poems that continue to resonate today. Smith's compilation is fun to read and to reread. Any teacher would find it ideal for introductory English literature classes, honors high

school or college. What is missing? This collection excludes translations of classical poetry, poetry of the non-English speaking world, and contemporary English-speaking poets. But this little book contains enough gems to satisfy any treasure hunter. Looking for a more eclectic anthology? See 100 Poems by 100 Poets compiled by Harold Pinter, Geoffrey Godbert, and Anthony Astbury. They present what they consider (by unanimous decision, often after heated argument) to be the best poem by each of the 100 best poets in the English language. Their choices only occasionally overlap with the better known selections in Philip Smith's Dover edition. Another good choice is One Hundred and One Famous Poems, compiled by Roy J. Cook in 1927, that has long been a favorite anthology of British and American poets. It is an interesting collection, as it includes many poets that are now less familiar or even forgotten, but who were popular in the early part of the twentieth century. Take a look at this anthology. You will be pleasantly surprised. It has been reprinted many times and it is not difficult to find.

This is a great collection of classic rhyming poems. I found many of my favorite poems, including "If" and "The Raven". And the price is right. If you want a more durable collection, you might try another favorite of mine, "Poetry for a Lifetime". This beautiful volume includes many of these poems and is illustrated and has comments from the editor. I highly recommend both books.

Beautiful works. Major bargain. I read them to my baby.

"The fog comes on little cat feet. It sits looking over the harbor and city on silent haunches and then move on." ~Fog, Carl Sandburg 100 Best-Loved Poems presents poems from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century. The poets are all familiar, but the poems are more varied and quite a few are poems I'd never read before. In a compilation like this, you'd imagine to find quite a few familiar favorites from high school or college and those did appear throughout. There is comfort in reading poems we tried to understand in school, but didn't have the emotional maturity to fully digest. Now upon reflection, how could we have truly understood "To His Coy Mistress" at 16, a poem born of mature desire. Now nearing forty, I feel I can linger in these poems enjoying every nuance. This classic collection includes brief introductions to each poet and includes some information on poetic forms. In the section of Ballads, you can hear the singsong rhymes as you read so the first poem was a good choice. The poets include: Lord Randal, Sir Patrick Spens, Sir Thomas Wyatt, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare, Thomas Nashe, John Donne, Ben Jonson, Robert Herrick, George Herbert, Edmund Waller, John Milton, Richard Lovelace, Andrew Marvell, Henry Vaughan, Thomas

Gray, William Blake, Robert Burns, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Leigh Hunt, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, William Cullen Bryant, John Keats Ralph Waldo Emerson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Greenleaf Whittier, Edgar Allan Poe, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Walt Whitman, Matthew Arnold, George Meredith, Emily Dickinson, Christina Rossetti, Lewis Carroll, Thomas Hardy, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Robert Louis Stevenson, A.E. Housman, Rudyard Kipling, William Butler Yeats, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Marianne Moore, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Wilfred Owen, E.E. Cummings, W.H. Auden and Dylan Thomas. While the poems are not overly culturally diverse and seem to focus on English and American poets, there is a wonderful early translation for "The River-Merchant's Wife: A letter." It was fun to find "The Tyger" by William Blake and Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" makes a little more sense to me now. "Ode on a Grecian Urn" makes more sense when you can see a picture. Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Ozymandias" is a reminder of time's destructive powers and William Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" speaks of the human condition and the way we connect with nature. William Butler Yeats has a different take on age in "When You Are Old." He speaks more of appreciation than destruction. "For oft, when on my couch I lieIn vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon that inward eyeWhich is the bliss of solitude; And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils." ~I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud, William Wordsworth The selections by Emily Dickinson are playful and they made me want to read more of her poems. There are quite a few life lesson poems that are profound in content, like "If-" by Rudyard Kipling, where he speaks of what it takes to me a man. Robert Frost also presents intriguing notions and life choices in his "The Road Not Taken." This collection offers recollections of poetry you may remember and introduces quite a few poems that are less familiar. John Donne's Holy Sonnet XIV was new to me, although I had read Holy Sonnet X... "Death be not proud..." As far as romance goes, Ben Johnson's "To Celia" stands out as does Robert Burns' "A Red, Red Rose." 100 Best-Loved Poems is a lovely classic collection and it is nice to have all these poems in one book for future contemplation. I will have to agree with everyone else who made comment as to the lack of cultural variety. For this, you may want to seek out poetry collections by Sam Hamill. For me, this was an inexpensive way to expand my poetry knowledge and to remember some of the poems I learned in high school and college. "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep." ~Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, Robert Frost~The Rebecca Review

A wonderful collection of classic and well known poetry by the great English poets whom folks from my ancient generation had to read, and often memorize. You'll recognize many of the words etched into the vocabulary of the English speaking world. It never ceases to amaze me of the depth of feelings these great poets had about life, heaven, hell, love etc. Every now and then it is refreshing to put down the heavy stuff and read a good poem or two. It will soothe your mind and rest your soul. Then you can go back to the heavy stuff of murder, mayhem, sex, violence and political corruption, knowing that at some time, someplace, somebody had better thoughts and shared them with us.

Dover has always been known for making fascinating books available for a song - here's one you can have for even less than a song! For a mere 80 cents, you get, as the title promises, 100 poems, best-loved poems at that. A volume to cherish, or to give as gifts - suitable for anybody, of any age, whether they love poems or need a place to start.

This is one of 3 books of once popular poems. I recommend spending some time with the kids helping them memorize some of these classics. with poetry it's not as intimidating to a child as reading a classic book but it does give them a glimpse of how it used to be

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