Complete Poems by e.e. cummings
The poetry of e.e. cummings is memorable and distinctive due to phrases and sentences using only lower case letters. If any poetry illustrates the avant-garde style of the 20th century it is his poetry.

Stacks – PS3505.U334 A17 1972

Sonnets by William Shakespeare
Perhaps the greatest playwright to ever live, Shakespeare is known for works such as Hamlet and Macbeth. But besides priceless literature he also wrote poetry known as sonnets that deal with his feelings and love affair with a mysterious “dark lady”.

Stacks – PR2848.A2 B84

Poems and Other Writings by Henry W. Longfellow
H.W. Longfellow was one of the first major poets in America and was perhaps the most popular of them all during the 19th century. He wrote about topics such as the American Revolution, Indian-Puritan wars as well as about time, memory, and nature.

Stacks – PS 2253.M33 2000

Complete Poetry and Selected Prose by Walt Whitman
If any single poet could be said to sum up the American poetic spirit, it is Walt Whitman. Though his work has been considered controversial at times, he remains the father of American poetry.

Stacks – PS3200.F59

A Collection of Poems by Alfred Tennyson
Of all the names associated with Victorian Britain in the late 19th century, Alfred Lord Tennyson is the most famous. Together with Rudyard Kipling, he was the voice of the British Empire.

Stacks – PR 5550.F72

The Complete Poetical Works of Burns
Since the 18th century, Robert Burns has been considered the national poet of Scotland. His poetry has been considered the heart and soul of not just Scottish culture but also the inspiration of the 19th century Romantic Movement.


Poems by W.B. Yeats
William Butler Yeats is one of the major figures of literature in the 20th century as well as the most prominent Irish poet of modern times. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923.

Stacks – PR5900.A3 1983

Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson
Emily Dickinson lived a reclusive life, spending most of it at home publishing very little while she was alive. After her death, the majority of her poetry was discovered and it became clear that she was one of the most important poets in American literature.

Stacks – PS1541.A128 1982

Collected Poems of Emily Dickinson
Emily Dickinson lived a reclusive life, spending most of it at home publishing very little while she was alive. After her death, the majority of her poetry was discovered and it became clear that she was one of the most important poets in American literature.

Stacks – PS1541.A128 1982
The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry: a Bilingual Anthology

Relatively overlooked until recently, Latin America has produced a wide variety of literature and poetry. This anthology covers many poets including masters such as Pablo Neruda and Octavio Paz.

Stacks – PQ7087.E5 O897 2009

The Norton Anthology of Poetry

If you don’t have a specific poet that you are interested in or you are not sure where to begin, an anthology of poetry can give you a good mix of material to look through. Norton is an excellent anthology to start with.


The Oxford Anthology of African-American Poetry

Black poets have been creating verse that touches on every part of the African-American experience for centuries. This anthology gives a sampling of the vast variety of poetry available including works by W.E.B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes.

Reference – PS591.N4 O97 2006

World Poetry: An Anthology of Verse from Antiquity to Our Time

This collection covers a bit of poetry from every part of the world from the beginning of human history. If you need any one resource on the vastness of poetry this is the one to look at.

Reference Desk – PN 6101.W517 1998b

Poetry is an art that dates back to the beginnings of civilization and appears in all cultures. It is the expression of intense ideas and feeling in a creative or imaginative manner through the use of distinctive language to express the full range of human emotions. This brochure lists some examples of excellent poetry available at the library!

Take a look at our Poetry Subject Guide:

http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/poetry

There is also plenty of online material available on the subject of poetry. Simply search “poetry” or by your favorite poets name in the CUNY+ catalog to find more!