River Houses Poetry Calendar
2018–2019

This is a calendar of some of the poems we read every year in the River Houses. Many are (or were) standard selections in American schools, and they represent a wide variety of styles and themes. This calendar is tied to the seasons and to seasonal anniversaries, and you can follow it directly or adapt it as you see fit for use in your own homeschool, adding your personal favorites and building up an educational poetry calendar for your own family.

FALL TERM (Cygnus Term)

September 2018
Week 1: “A handsome house to lodge a friend, a river at my garden’s end” (Horace via Swift)
Week 2: “The Tuft of Flowers” (Frost)
Week 3: “Song at the Beginning of Autumn” (Jennings)
Week 4: “Our Summer made her light escape” (Dickinson)

October 2018
Week 1: “To Autumn” (Keats)
Week 2: “God made a little gentian” (Dickinson)
Week 3: “After Apple-Picking” (Frost)
Week 4: “Turning Toward the Morning” (Bok)

November 2018
Week 1: “A Leaf Treader” (Frost)
Week 2: “The Farmer Remembers the Somme” (Palmer)
Week 3: “Stars, I have seen them fall” (Housman)
Week 4: “Turning Toward the Morning” (Bok)

WINTER TERM (Orion Term)

December 2018
Week 1: “Home is the hunter from the hill” (Housman)
Week 2: “He ate and drank the precious words” (Dickinson)
Week 3: “In the bleak midwinter” (Rossetti)
Week 4: “A Visit from St. Nicholas” (Moore) and “Ring out, wild bells” (Tennyson)

January 2019
Week 1: “The Snow-Storm” (Emerson)
Week 2: “Ice” (Mazur)
Week 3: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (Johnson)
Week 4: “In Memory of W.B. Yeats” (Auden)

February 2019
Week 1: “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” (Frost)
Week 2: “You may blame Aphrodite” (Sappho)
Week 3: “I think continually of those who were truly great” (Spender)
Week 4: “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer” (Keats)

SPRING TERM (Leo Term)

March 2019
Week 1: “Books, books, books!” (Browning)
Week 2: “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer” (Whitman)
Week 3: “The Ides of March” (Cavafy)
Week 4: “Nothing Gold Can Stay” (Frost)

April 2019
Week 1: “Whan that Aprille” (Chaucer)
Week 2: “Calmly we walk through this April’s day” (Schwartz)
Week 3: “Concord Hymn” (Emerson)
Week 4: “Loveliest of trees” (Housman)

May 2019
Week 1: “All in this pleasant evening” (Anonymous)
Week 2: “On Mother’s Day” (Lansky)
Week 3: “Birches” (Frost)
Week 4: “Homeward Bound” (Keen)

SUMMER TERM (Hercules Term)

June 2019
Week 1: “Sumer is i-cumin in” (Anonymous)
Week 2: “Star-Spangled Banner” (Key)
Week 3: “The Children’s Hour” (Longfellow)
Week 4: “The Swing” (Stevenson)

July 2019
Week 1: “A Nation’s Strength” (Emerson)
Week 2: “Liberty and Peace” (Wheatley)
Week 3: “When Newton saw an apple fall” (Byron)
Week 4: “As kingfishers catch fire” (Hopkins)

August 2019
Week 1: “To the Master of the Meteor” (Melville)
Week 2: “A Star in a Stone-Boat” (Frost)
Week 3: “Poor, middle-âged summer!” (Jackson)
Week 4: “Go, little book, and wish to all” (Stevenson)