



River Houses Poetry Calendar 2020–2021

THESE are some of the poems we read and discuss each year on the River Houses website (riverhouses.org). Many of them 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 a range of historical 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 of your own for your family to read along with throughout the year.

FALL TERM (Cygnum Term)

September 2020

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

October 2020

- Week 1: “To Autumn” (John Keats)
Week 2: “God made a little Gentian” (Emily Dickinson)
Week 3: “After Apple-Picking” (Robert Frost)
Week 4: “Turning Toward the Morning” (Gordon Bok)

November 2020

- Week 1: “A Leaf-Treader” (Robert Frost)
Week 2: “For the Fallen” (Laurence Binyon)
Week 3: “Stars, I have seen them fall” (A.E. Housman)
Week 4: “Thanksgiving Magic” (Rowena Bastin Bennett)

WINTER TERM (Orion Term)

December 2020

- Week 1: “Home is the hunter from the hill” (A.E. Housman)
Week 2: “He ate and drank the precious Words” (Emily Dickinson)
Week 3: “Reluctance” (Robert Frost)
Week 4: “A Visit from St. Nicholas” (Clement Clarke Moore)
and “Auld Lang Syne” (Robert Burns)

January 2021

- Week 1: “First Sight” (Philip Larkin)
Week 2: “Ice” (Gail Mazur)
Week 3: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (James Weldon Johnson)
Week 4: “Sea Fever” (John Masefield)

February 2021

- Week 1: “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” (Robert Frost)
Week 2: “Awake ye muses nine!” (Emily Dickinson)
Week 3: “I think continually of those who were truly great” (Stephen Spender)
Week 4: “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer” (John Keats)

SPRING TERM (Leo Term)

March 2021

- Week 1: “The river is moving” (Wallace Stevens)
Week 2: “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer” (Walt Whitman)
Week 3: “The Ides of March” (Constantine Cavafy)
Week 4: “Nothing Gold Can Stay” (Robert Frost)

April 2021

- Week 1: “Whan that Aprill” (Geoffrey Chaucer)
Week 2: “Calmly We Walk Through This April’s Day” (Delmore Schwartz)
Week 3: “Paul Revere’s Ride” (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
and “Concord Hymn” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)
Week 4: “Loveliest of trees, the cherry now” (A.E. Housman)

May 2021

- Week 1: “May and the Poets” (Leigh Hunt)
Week 2: “In Reference to Her Children” (Anne Bradstreet)
Week 3: “Birches” (Robert Frost)
Week 4: “Homeward Bound” (Marta Keen)

SUMMER TERM (Hercules Term)

June 2021

- Week 1: “Sumer is i-cumen in” (Anonymous)
Week 2: “The Star-Spangled Banner” (Francis Scott Key)
Week 3: “The Children’s Hour” (Henry W. Longfellow)
Week 4: “The Swing” (Robert Louis Stevenson)

July 2021

- Week 1: “A Nation’s Strength” (William Ralph Emerson)
Week 2: “Liberty and Peace” (Phillis Wheatley)
Week 3: “Answer, July” (Emily Dickinson)
Week 4: “As Kingfishers Catch Fire” (Gerard M. Hopkins)

August 2021

- Week 1: “To the Master of the *Meteor*” (Herman Melville)
Week 2: “A Star in a Stoneboat” (Robert Frost)
Week 3: “Poor, middle-aged summer!” (Helen Hunt Jackson)
Week 4: “Go, little book, and wish to all” (Robert Louis Stevenson)