**What it is:** Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation contest created in 2006 by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. The contest was created to increase awareness in the art of performing poetry, with substantial cash prizes being awarded to schools and students.

**What you have to do**: Choose one poem to memorize and recite. You will recite this in front of a group of judges based on physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, and overall performance. One winner will be chosen from the high school who will then go and compete at the regional level. A regional winner will be sent to states, and a state winner will be sent to nationals.

**School Competition:** Will be October 29th, 2018 at 2:45pm

**Student Eligibility**   
•**Grade Level:** Only currently enrolled students in grades 9-12 are eligible, with an exception made for 8th-grade students participating in a 9th- through 12th-grade class.

•**Legal Participation Requirements:** No student may be excluded from participating in Poetry Out Loud on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin. Schools may determine eligibility for classroom and school level Poetry Out Loud programming pursuant to local and state law.

•**Prize Requirements:** The Poetry Foundation provides and administers all aspects of the monetary prizes awarded in Poetry Out Loud. State champions and runners up will need a valid tax identification number or social security number at the time that monetary prizes are issued by the Poetry Foundation.

•**Travel Requirements:** The Poetry Foundation provides and administers all aspects of the travel for State champions to the National Poetry Out Loud Finals. State champions (or their legal guardians) and their chaperones must complete the Poetry Foundation's [Poetry Out Loud Attestation Form](https://assets.poetryoutloud.org/uploads/documents/Poetry-Out-Loud-Attestation.pdf) and submit it to the Poetry Foundation before travel to the National Poetry Out Loud Finals can be arranged by the Poetry Foundation.

**Memorization tips:**

* Rewrite your poem by hand several times. Each time, try to write more and more of it from memory.
* Read your poem aloud before going to sleep at night, and repeat it when you wake up.
* Carry around a copy of your poem. You’ll find several moments throughout the day to reread or recite it.
* Practice your poem by saying it to family and friends.