



# CLA Master Class

## Poetry Across the Curriculum

NCTE Session SIG.14

Saturday, November 22, 2014 5:45-7pm

Gaylord National: Chesapeake J/K/L

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**Get involved in CLA!**  
[childrensliteratureassembly.org](http://childrensliteratureassembly.org)

# SOCIAL STUDIES AND POETRY

## *CLA Master Class: Poetry Across the Curriculum*

### 5 GREAT SOCIAL STUDIES POETRY BOOKS

1. Corcoran, Jill. Ed. 2012. *Dare to Dream... Change the World*. San Diego, CA: Kane Miller.
2. Engle, Margarita. 2008. *The Surrender Tree*. New York: Holt.
3. Hopkins, Lee Bennett. 2008. *America at War*. New York: McElderry.
4. Myers, Walter Dean. 2011. *We are America; A Tribute from the Heart*. Ill. by Christopher Myers. New York: HarperCollins.
5. Singer, Marilyn. 2013. *Rutherford B., Who Was He?: Poems About Our Presidents*. New York: Disney-Hyperion.

### 5 SOCIAL STUDIES-TEACHING TIPS

1. Talk about "Today's Document" at the National Archives (at Archives.gov).
2. Create "found" poetry from news articles.
3. Examine facsimiles of primary source documents (at Jackdaw.com).
4. Use Google Maps to locate places you're reading about.
5. Look at children's books in different languages from around the world at the International Children's Digital Library.

### 5 SOCIAL STUDIES-TEACHING WEBSITES

1. National Council for the Social Studies / <http://socialstudies.org>
2. Notable Children's Trade Books in the Field of Social Studies <http://www.cbcbooks.org/notable-social-studies>
3. Social Studies Central / <http://www.socialstudiescentral.com>
4. History is Elementary / <http://historyiselementary.blogspot.com>
5. The History Channel / <http://www.history.com>

**Handout created by Sylvia Vardell** – All resources for the 2014 CLA/NCTE Master Class are her personal recommendations.

**Learn more about the Children's Literature Assembly at <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/>.**

## 5 SOCIAL STUDIES POEMS ONLINE!

"Liberty" by Janet Wong  
<http://www.janetwong.com/poems/interdependence.cfm>

"Just Like That" by Laura Purdie Salas  
<http://www.laurasalas.com/blog/books/just-like-that/>

"I, Too, Sing America" by Langston Hughes  
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/177020>

"Gate A-4" by Naomi Shihab Nye  
<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/gate-4>

"The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus  
<http://www.libertystatepark.com/emma.htm>



# Additional SOCIAL STUDIES Poems to Share with Your Students

## Council of Brothers

James, John, Michael, Hugh, and Patrick Donnelly,  
January, 1849

by **Marilyn Nelson**

Our Mam, dead of fever, sleeps on the ocean floor.  
Now cholera's took Dad. Listen to me:  
All of our lives, we've been hungry and poor.  
Well, I've had it up to here with poverty!  
Laying awake every night with a growling gut,  
wearing Hugh's smelly, outgrown, leaky boots.

Jamie's free, white, and almost twenty-one;  
all of us have strong hearts and arms and backs;  
I'm thirteen, but I'm strong as any man.  
We are the orphans of the dispossessed.  
What's to keep us from being rolling stones?

This morning, I hawked a headline hot off the press:  
**EXTRA! GOLD FOUND IN CALIFORNIA CREEK!**  
I say the Donnelly brothers should head West.

from **The Poetry Friday Anthology for Middle School** by Sylvia  
Vardell and Janet Wong Poem copyright © 2013 Marilyn Nelson

## Nebraska: Landmark

by Laura Purdie Salas

only flames of  
hardship and adventure  
burned in Chimney Rock

its only smoke  
was the restless breeze,  
drifting across plains,  
summoning westbound settlers,  
"This way, this way..."

Note: Chimney Rock, named for its shape, and other natural formations throughout Nebraska (like Dome Rock and Scotts Bluff) were important landmarks for settlers heading west along the Oregon Trail during the first half of the 19th century. Settlers who had already made the difficult journey would write to their families and friends back East, telling them what to watch for. Westward settlers endured walking barefoot for 2,000 miles, crossing raging rivers, and cholera, a deadly disease. When Chimney Rock appeared, towering 500 feet about Nebraska's plains, it reassured travelers that they were still following the right path.

from **50 State Poems: The Wild, the Weird, the Naturally Wonderful** by Laura Purdie Salas, copyright © 2014 Laura Purdie Salas

## For All, 1963

by J. Patrick Lewis

If you contend the noblest end  
of all is human rights, amend  
the laws: The beauty of the sun  
is that it shines on everyone.

from **Voices from the March on Washington** by J. Patrick Lewis  
& George Ella Lyon Poem copyright © 2014 J. Patrick Lewis

an excerpt from a poem in the voice of

## Anikwa

by Helen Frost

Our fire will keep us warm  
inside while we tell winter stories. Today,  
these cattails spread out on the ground make me think  
of winter. In winter, the longhouse will  
remind me of this summer day.

from **SALT: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War** by Helen Frost  
copyright © 2013 Helen Frost

an excerpt from

## My Name Is Mónica

by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy

...  
My father says **illegal**  
is a dirty word.  
All human beings  
are made legal  
by God  
when they are born.  
"Say **undocumented**,"  
he insists,  
"if you need to call it something."  
Illegal or undocumented—  
I do not care.  
I am glad I won't have to be  
any of that anymore  
and just be me—  
Mónica,  
daughter, niece, friend,  
student,  
girl.

from **Yes! We Are Latinos!** by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel  
Campoy, copyright © 2013 Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy.

# ARTS AND POETRY

## CLA Master Class: Poetry across the Curriculum

### 5 GREAT ARTS POETRY BOOKS

- 1) Brown, Calef. 2006. *Flamingos on the Roof*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- 2) Greenberg, Jan, ed. 2001. *Heart to Heart: New Poems Inspired by Twentieth-Century American Art*. New York: Harry N. Houghton.
- 3) Jiang, Emily 2013. *Summoning the Phoenix: Poems and Prose about Chinese Musical Instrument*. Walnut Creek, CA: Shen's Books.
- 4) Lewis, J. Patrick. 2014. *Everything is a Poem: the best of J. Patrick Lewis*. Mankato, MN: Creative Editions.
- 5) Prelutsky, Jack. 2010. *The Carnival of the Animals New Verses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

### 5 ARTS-TEACHING TIPS

- 1) Interact and dance to "Forty Performing Bananas" from *Be Glad Your Nose is on Your Face and Other Poems: Some of the Best of Jack Prelutsky* by Jack Prelutsky
- 2) Listen to a selection of music from around the world and write a poem describing the sounds from one of your favorite songs.
- 3) Write an ode to a paintbrush using your favorite colors.
- 4) Create a "masterpiece" concrete poem similar to your favorite artist. Explore an art museum online for ideas.
- 5) Play a variety of musical instruments and write a list poem of sounds.

### 5 ARTS-TEACHING WEBSITES

- 1) MOMA Teaching Resources K-12  
<http://www.moma.org/learn/index>
- 2) Metropolitan Museum of Art Learn for Kids: Art and Music  
<http://www.metmuseum.org/learn/for-kids>
- 3) Kidzone with the New York Philharmonic  
<http://www.nyphilkids.org/main.phtml?>
- 4) The Great Websites for Kids: The Arts  
<http://gws.ala.org/category/arts>

**Handout created by Paige Bentley-Flannery** – All resources for the 2014 CLA/NCTE Master Class are her personal recommendations.

**Learn more about the Children's Literature Assembly at <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/>.**

## 5 ARTS POEMS ONLINE!

"Fancy Dancer" by Kenn Nesbitt.

[http://www.poetry4kids.com/poem-365.html#.VD\\_yc1Tn9dg](http://www.poetry4kids.com/poem-365.html#.VD_yc1Tn9dg)

"Arthur the Artist" by Kenn Nesbitt

[http://www.poetry4kids.com/poem-626.html#.VD\\_6gFTn9dg](http://www.poetry4kids.com/poem-626.html#.VD_6gFTn9dg)

"Music Class," by Kristine O'Connell George.

[www.kristinegeorge.com/poetry\\_aloud.html](http://www.kristinegeorge.com/poetry_aloud.html)

"Tempo and One Mighty Voice," by Charles R. Smith (scroll to bottom of page)

<http://www.charlesrsmithjr.com/activities-poems.htm>

"The Artist," by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

<http://www.poemfarm.amylv.com/2011/02/artist-speaks-in-poem-326.html>



## Additional ARTS Poems to Share with Your Students

### Opening Night

by Renée M. LaTulippe

Costume broke,  
can't find a pin.  
My makeup's running  
down my chin.  
Who took my wig?  
Is that my prop?  
(You think we'll be  
a giant flop?)  
Butterflies  
and noodle legs.  
Terrified  
of hurtled eggs.  
What if I  
forget my lines?  
(Stop it now!  
You're fine, you're FINE!)  
Waiting (QUIET!)  
in the wings.  
Five deep breaths.  
Warning bell rings.  
Curtain rises.  
(Gotta pee!)  
I step on stage—

lights shine on me.

from **The Poetry Friday Anthology for Middle School** by Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong Poem copyright © 2013 Renée M. LaTulippe

### On the Verge

by Sara Holbrook

Look inside this block of marble —  
see the angle of a chin?  
See? This part juts out —  
and here?  
It slopes back in?

I know it's just a block of marble —  
but see the profile?  
Use the light.  
A shoulder, outstretched arm,  
it's stepping forward.  
Am I right?

Museum walls are lined  
with graceful statues,  
polished rocks, smoothed  
of all their edges.  
Works of art  
that once were blocks  
like this.  
Look here, a foot,  
a hand, a nose,  
an outline on the verge,  
struggling to be seen.  
A profile  
trying to emerge.

from **Walking on the Boundaries of Change** by Sara Holbrook;  
copyright © 1998 Sara Holbrook

an excerpt from

### Recipe for Self-Portrait

by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

7 Herr Kahlo's oil paints  
1 large pain  
1 liter of tears  
Look at self, black hair silk girl,  
in the daily mirror  
on the underside of my bed canopy.  
Draw self, the subject I know best.  
Squeeze oil paints on a heart-shaped palette:

. . .

Soak pain in tears until completely dissolved.  
Dab brush in tear solution.  
Dip brush in oil paint.  
Respect the brush's wishes.  
Let portrait dry for 2 to 4 days.  
In the meantime, sing *La Malagueña*.

from **Frida: ¡Viva la vida! Long Live Life!** by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand; copyright © 2007 Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

### Painting with Sound

by Emily Jiang

Picking at my *guzheng*  
I can feel

the crisp, clean  
mountain air

breezing over  
my unbound hair.

Strumming my *guzheng*  
I can feel

the cold rush  
of waterfall

filling my ears  
with thunderous call.

from **Summoning the Phoenix: Poems and Prose about Chinese Musical Instruments** by Emily Jiang; copyright © 2014 Emily Jiang

# MATH AND POETRY

## CLA Master Class: Poetry Across the Curriculum

### 5 GREAT MATH POETRY BOOKS

- 1) Hopkins, Lee Bennett, Ed. 2001 (reprint edition). *Marvelous Math: A Book of Poems*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
- 2) Lewis, J. Patrick. 2002. *Arithme-Tickle: An Even Number of Odd Riddle-Rhymes*. New York: Harcourt Children's Books.
- 3) Franco, Betsy. 2003. *Mathemattickles!* New York: Margaret McElderry.
- 4) Franco, Betsy. 2006. *Math Poetry: Linking Language and Math in a Fresh Way*. Culver City, CA: Good Year Books.
- 5) Lewis, J. Patrick. 2012. *Edgar Allen Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems*. New York: HMH Books for Young Readers.

### 5 MATH-TEACHING TIPS

- 1) Engage students in real-world math problems.
- 2) Challenge students with rich problems that have multiple solutions and that can be solved with a variety of strategies.
- 3) Make sure students have a chance to formulate math problems, not just solve them.
- 4) Weave the 8 mathematical processes through all of your math instruction.
- 5) Integrate math and science instruction.

### 5 MATH-TEACHING WEBSITES

- 1) National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
<http://www.nctm.org/>
- 2) Math Exchanges <http://mathexchanges.wordpress.com/>
- 3) What is Math Workshop? <http://tinyurl.com/q5f9ptd>

**Handout created by Mary Lee Hahn** – All resources for the 2014 CLA/NCTE Master Class are Mary Lee's personal recommendations.

**Learn more about the Children's Literature Assembly at**  
<http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/>.

## 5 MATH POEMS ONLINE!

"Marvelous Math," by  
Rebecca Kai Dotlich  
<http://tinyurl.com/or4xeot>

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"Cardinal Ideograms," by  
May Swenson  
<http://tinyurl.com/p4hq3pm>

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"Applied Geometry," by  
Russell Libby  
<http://tinyurl.com/mzqlng6>

-----  
"Numbers," by Mary Cornish  
<http://tinyurl.com/68vzpel>

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"Arithmetic," by Carl  
Sandburg  
<http://tinyurl.com/l3q2gwm>





# SCIENCE AND POETRY

## CLA Master Class: Poetry Across the Curriculum

### 5 GREAT SCIENCE POETRY BOOKS

- 1) Hoberman, Mary Ann and Linda Winston. Eds. 2009. *The Tree That Time Built*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc.
- 2) Lewis, J. Patrick. Ed. 2012. *National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society.
- 3) Sidman, Joyce. 2011. *Swirl by Swirl*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.
- 4) Vardell, Sylvia and Janet Wong. Eds. 2014. *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science*. Princeton, NJ: Pomelo Books.
- 5) Worth, Valerie. 1987. *all the small poems*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

### 5 SCIENCE TEACHING TIPS

- 1) Go outside. Go OUTSIDE. GO OUTSIDE!
- 2) Wherever possible, bring real (live?) artifacts into the classroom for hands-on noticing, exploration and experimentation.
- 3) Give children lots of supported practice in asking wondering questions. Don't race to the answers—linger in the questions.
- 4) Use the work of Valerie Worth as a model for writing based on close observation of small, ordinary things.
- 5) Don't forget to share biographies about scientists, so that kids can imagine themselves in this role.

### 5 SCIENCE TEACHING WEBSITES

- 1) Discovery Education (Videos, Interactive Lessons)  
<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-k-5-teacher-resources/>
- 2) Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears (Integrating Science & Literacy)  
<http://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/>
- 3) Understanding Evolution (K-12) <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/>
- 4) BBC Schools Science Clips (interactive)  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index\\_flash.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/index_flash.shtml)
- 5) PebbleGo (Emergent Reader Research, by subscription)  
<http://pebblego.com/login/>

**Handout created by Heidi Mordhorst**— All resources for the 2014 CLA/NCTE Master Class are her personal recommendations. **Learn more about the Children's Literature Assembly at** <http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/>.

## 5 SCIENCE POEMS ONLINE!

"Clouds" by Christina Rossetti, at  
<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/clouds>

"In Hardwood Groves" by Robert Frost, at  
<http://myjuicylittleuniverse.blogspot.com/2014/10/science-series-ii.html>

"The World Below the Brine" by Walt Whitman, at  
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174749>

"Think of an Atom" by Buffy Silverman, at  
<http://irenelatham.blogspot.com/2014/03/experiment-with-science-and-poetry-with.html>

"I Will Be a Chemist" by Alma Flor Ada, at  
<http://pomelobooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ada-molina-poem-pdf.pdf>





# Additional SCIENCE Poems to Share with Your Students

## Dear Rachel Carson

by Mary Lee Hahn

Dear Rachel Carson,

We went to the organic farm yesterday  
and learned about you, and why they don't spray  
chemicals to kill bugs that eat up their crops:  
the balance in nature goes from bottom to top.

You warned in your book, *Silent Spring*, long ago,  
humans must always be sure that they know  
what the impact will be on all living things  
when we do things to benefit us, human beings.

Someday when we're scientists, we'll think of you  
and remember your teaching in all that we do.  
In our work to help humans we'll never forget  
that we're only one part of the life on our planet.

Yours truly,  
Miss Smith's 1st Grade Class

from **The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science** by Sylvia  
Vardell and Janet Wong Poem copyright © 2014 Mary Lee Hahn

excerpt from

**Augusto; The Museum of Memory**  
from **Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal**  
by Margarita Engle

. . .  
There was a Spirit Lab too,  
with pickled creatures floating  
in green glass jars, like liquid  
ghosts,  
and a mysterious building  
that Papa called the Maze  
of Lost Scientists,  
where specialists peered  
into microscopes, each one working  
year after year until he knew more  
than anyone else on earth  
about a particular species  
of orchid, spider, centipede,  
or worm. The specialists  
were jokingly nicknamed  
Flower Man, Dr. Tarantula,  
Lord Centipede, or Mr. Maggot.

pages 126-27 from **Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal** by Margarita Engle; copyright © 2014 Margarita Engle

## Fossil

by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

I dug in the creek bed.  
I dug and I found  
a grandfather fossil  
asleep underground.  
He whispered a story  
of creatures in sand.  
I listened as trilobites  
filled up my hand.  
For one flicker-minute  
they tickled my palm.  
Alive for an eye blink.  
Forever dead calm.

from **Forest Has a Song** by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater;  
copyright © 2013 Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

## The Sun

by Douglas Florian

Ninety-three million miles from Earth.  
Nearly a million miles in girth.  
4.6 billion years old.  
Core eight times as dense as gold.  
Here and there a dark sunspot.  
And did you know . . . the sun is hot?

from **Comets, stars, the Moon, and Mars: space poems and paintings** by Douglas Florian; copyright © 2007 Douglas Florian

## Science Fair

by Irene Latham

The graphics  
I created and pinned  
to the felt board  
  
explain why my eyes  
could never be brown,  
my hair only blond.

I wonder if Mendel's  
theory of genetics  
also applies to why

I'm shy  
and can speak  
to the judges

only in a quavery voice  
that betrays my shaky  
hands and knees.

from **The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science** by Sylvia  
Vardell and Janet Wong Poem copyright © 2014 Irene Latham

# SPORTS, GAMES, & POETRY

## CLA Master Class: Poetry Across the Curriculum

### 5 SPORTS POETRY BOOKS

- 1) Florian, Douglas, 2012. *Poem Runs*. New York: Harcourt.
- 2) Kalz, Jill, Ed. 2014. *Pucks, Clubs, and Baseball Gloves*. North Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books.
- 3) Low, Alice. 2009. *The Fastest Game on Two Feet*. New York: Holiday House.
- 4) Prelutsky, Jack. 2007. *Good Sports*. New York: Alfred Knopf.
- 5) Singer, Marilyn. 2012. *A Stick is an Excellent Thing*. New York: Clarion.

### 5 SPORTS-TEACHING TIPS

- 1) To write about a sport, you need sound words. Generate a list of onomatopoeic sound words from different sports. For a lesson plan <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/swish-whack-teaching-onomatopoeia-1131.html>
- 2) Compare Bob Raczka's book *Joy in Mudville* to Ernest Thayer's poem "Casey at the Bat." Ask students to write their own Mudville poem.
- 3) Harry Potter Fans, write a poem about Quidditch or other invented sport. For more ideas: [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/harry\\_potter\\_learning\\_activity/design-a-wizard-sports-team.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/harry_potter_learning_activity/design-a-wizard-sports-team.shtml)
- 4) Even kindergartners can describe the movement of sports through simile and metaphor. Ran like a cheetah. Jumped like a kangaroo. Challenge older students to use imagery from technology.
- 5) Use "Running Back" and other models on back page. Have students write free verse poem about a favorite sport. Student examples: [http://www.nowaterriver.com/national-poetry-month-the-poetry-friday-anthology-for-middle-school-poet-a-palooza-act-2/#attachment\\_4266](http://www.nowaterriver.com/national-poetry-month-the-poetry-friday-anthology-for-middle-school-poet-a-palooza-act-2/#attachment_4266)

### 5 SPORTS-TEACHING WEBSITES

- 1) Society of Health and Physical Educators <http://www.shapeamerica.org/>
- 2) Report from the Surgeon General <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/ataglan.htm>
- 3) Presidential Youth Fitness Program <http://www.pyfp.org/>
- 4) President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition <http://www.fitness.gov/>
- 5) The National Foundation on Fitness Sports and Nutrition <http://nffsn.org/>

**Handout created by Jacqueline Jules**

**[www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com)** – All resources for the 2014 CLA/NCTE Master Class are her personal recommendations.

## 5 SPORTS POEMS ONLINE!

"Pee wee Soccer"

by Robert Pottle

<http://www.gigglepoetry.com/poem.aspx?PoemID=341&CategoryID=22>

"The Score is Tied, My Knees are Weak" by Paul Orshoski

<http://www.poetryminute.org/tag/sports/page/13/>

"Two Wheels That Go

Around" by Michael Salinger

<http://www.poetryminute.org/tag/sports/page/18/>

"Fast Break" by Edward Hirsch

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/fast-break-0>

"Swimming Lessons"

by Neal Levin

<http://www.poetryminute.org/tag/sports/page/7/>



Children's Literature Assembly  
[www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/](http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/)

## Additional Poems about Sports & Games to Share with Your Students

### Moving for Five Minutes Straight

by Betsy Franco

For 50 secs,  
we hop around,  
then switch  
for 50 more.

For half a minute  
we all lie down  
for push ups  
on the floor.

For 90 secs,  
we get in rows  
to do our  
jumping jacks.

For 80 secs,  
we're on our feet,  
all sprinting  
up and back.

But when we  
hear the buzzer sound,  
we freeze.  
We're glad to stop.

My pulse:  
one hundred sixty-two!  
I think my heart will  
pop!

from **The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science** by Sylvia  
Vardell and Janet Wong; poem copyright © 2014 Betsy Franco

excerpt of riddle poem  
from **When Riddles Come Rumbling**  
by Rebecca Kai Dotlich

This ring of wonder  
spins around—  
below the waist,  
above the ground,  
round and round  
the circle flies,  
a whirling,  
whizzing  
hip-surprise  
. . .

from **When Riddles Come Rumbling** by Rebecca Kai Dotlich;  
copyright © 2001 Rebecca Kai Dotlich

### Running Back

by Jacqueline Jules

He's on the big screen again,  
with padded shoulders,  
and shiny tight pants.  
The number on his jersey  
identifies him clearly  
for the cameras and the crowd,  
as he clamps a strap under his chin,  
without ever looking up.  
I watch from my living room,  
sometimes booing,  
sometimes cheering,  
but always wishing  
I could put on a helmet  
and run like that—  
past all those guys  
trying to knock me down—  
not caring a bit  
who's booing or who's cheering,  
'cause I've got the ball in my hand.

from **The Poetry Friday Anthology** by Sylvia  
Vardell and Janet Wong; poem copyright © 2012 Jacqueline Jules

### Bronc Riders

by Nancy Bo Flood

No saddle or stirrups.  
*Are you crazy?  
Got my lucky saddle hitched tight.*  
Nothing to hold on to  
but a braided rawhide rigging.  
*Got my reins held right.*

Ready!  
*Ready!*  
Out the chute.  
*Heels pressed in.*  
One hand held high.  
*Feeling the rhythm of a*  
kicking,  
*rearing,*  
twisting,  
*spinning*

BRONC!

Bareback rider,  
*Saddleback rider,*

YEAH!

from **Cowboy Up! Ride the Navajo Rodeo** by Nancy Bo Flood;  
poem copyright © 2013 Nancy Bo Flood