

"To light us to freedom, and glory again!" Civil War Poetry with a Purpose

Poetry written during the Civil War was used as a vehicle for the individual to express opinions and attitudes. Use the Library of Congress's online collections, to explore how poetry written by soldiers and citizenry from the North and the South helped unify citizens, inspire troops, memorialize the dead, and overcome the anger and resentment of both sides in the aftermath of the war.

Audience: teachers, curriculum specialists, staff development trainers, media specialists, librarians, university instructors

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Develop an understanding of the some of the uses of poetry written during the Civil War;
- Be able to locate poetry and poetry resources on the Library of Congress Web site.

Tasks in brief:

- Read and discuss poems on selected themes from individuals in the North and South. (one-hr. presentation)
- Navigate the Library of Congress Web site to find poetry and poetry-related resources. (two-hr. workshop).
- Locate contextualizing materials to provide greater understanding of the poem under discussion and others on the same topic. (two-hr. workshop)

Presentation Options:

One-hour interactive presentation (a selection of poems will be read and discussed)

Two-hour interactive workshop, with hands-on practice locating supporting materials on the Library's web site.

Resources:

- Collection Guides: [Civil War Poetry resources](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/lcpoetry/cw.html)
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- Collection Guides: [Library of Congress Poetry Resources](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/lcpoetry/)
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/lcpoetry/>
- Learning Page Community Center: [Literature & Poetry](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_literature.php)
http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_literature.php
- Library of Congress: [Poetry](http://www.loc.gov/poetry/)
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