

2026 sealey challenge

READING LIST

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
POETRY CENTER



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF [THE SEALEY CHALLENGE](#), WE INVITED 10 WRITERS & LITERARY ORGANIZATIONS TO RECOMMEND 10 BOOKS EACH—FOR A TOTAL OF 100 SEALEY RECOMMENDATIONS!

ADA LIMÓN RECOMMENDS

America, a Love Story, Camille T. Dungy

Horses, Jake Skeets

All Us Beautiful Monsters, Alex Lemon

Wayward Creatures, Heidi Andrea Restrepo Rhodes

How to Kill a Goat & Other Monsters, Saúl Hernández

Worth Burning, Mickie Kennedy

Bachelor, Gustavo Hernandez

The Seeds, Cecily Parks

In a Few Minutes Before Later, Brenda Hillman

Into the Hush, Arthur Sze

ADRIAN MATEJKA RECOMMENDS

Magic City, Yusef Komunyakaa

The New Economy, Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Blood Dazzler, Patricia Smith

Blessing the Boats, Lucille Clifton

In the Mecca, Gwendolyn Brooks

The Hormone of Darkness, Tilsa Otta (translated by Farid Matuk)

Intifadas, Edward Salem

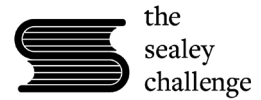
Lunch Poems, Frank O'Hara

Flood Song, Sherwin Bitsui

Solutions for the Problem of Bodies in Space, Catherine Barnett

American Sonnets for my Past and Future Assassin, Terrance Hayes

[25,000,000+](#) poems read over the past decade



**NATALIE SHAPERO
RECOMMENDS**

with snow pouring southward past the window, Joan Naviyuk Kane

The Upstate, Lindsay Turner

Golden Ax, Rio Cortez

Oh You Robot Saints!, Rebecca Morgan Frank

Querida, Nathan Xavier Osorio

Circle Back, Adam Clay

The Bronze Arms, Richie Hofmann

Zombie Vomit Mad Libs, Duy Đoàn

Bright Thorn, Devin Johnston

Becoming Ghost, Cathy Linh Che

**JENNIFER CHANG
RECOMMENDS**

YEET!, Jason B. Crawford

Red Epic, Joshua Clover

Daywork, Jessica Fisher

After Image, Jenny George

Bad Boats, Laura Jensen

Theory of the Voice and Dream, Liliana Ponce (trans. by Michael Martin Shea)

All the Words I Know Are Poems,
Michelle Peñeloza

The Selected Shepherd, Reginald Shepherd

Horses, Jake Skeets

Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife,
Francesca Wade

“Poetry builds radical empathy. The world
needs that now more than ever.”



**MAHOGANY BROWNE
RECOMMENDS**

Breakbeat Poets Vol 2.: Black Girl Magic Anthology, edited by Mahogany Browne, Idrissa Simmonds, and Jamila Woods

Black Girl Bloom Bright, Mahogany Browne

Fear Less: Poetry in Perilous Times, Tracy K. Smith

Woke Up No Light, Leila Mottley

Joy in the Belly of the Riot, Barbara Fant

Florida Water, aja monet

Ordinary Beast, Nicole Sealey

Jive Poetic, Skip Tracer

Wind in a Box, Terrance Hayes

Time is a Mother, Ocean Vuong

**NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION
RECOMMENDS**

The New Economy, Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Becoming Ghost, Cathy Linh Che

Scorched Earth, Tiana Clark

Death of the First Idea, Rickey Laurentiis

Cold Thief Place, Esther Lin

Stay Dead, Natalie Shapero

I Do Know Some Things, Richard Siken

The Intentions of Thunder: New and Selected Poems, Patricia Smith

TERROR COUNTER, Fargo Nissim
Tbakhi

“It is not an exaggeration to say that **there is nothing more powerful than dedicating a small part of your day to reading poetry.**”



**CANTOMUNDO
RECOMMENDS**

Cowboy Park, Eduardo Martínez-Leyva

Orange, Noel Quiñones

Redwork, Laurie Ann Guerrero

Startlement, Ada Limón

The Restlessness of Bound Wrists, Jorge
Renaud

The Eaters of Flowers, Ire'ne Lara Silva

sipèstisyon, Mckendy Fils-Aimé

Of Form & Gather, Felicia Zamora

Daphne's Lot, Chris Abani

Emplumada, Lorna Dee Cervantes

**CAVE CANEM
RECOMMENDS**

The Years of Blood, Adedayo Agarau

Red Wilderness, Aaron Coleman

A Little Bump in the Earth, Tyree Daye

America, A Love Story, Camille T. Dungy

Telepath, Akua Leslie Hope

Death of the First Idea, Rickey Laurentiis

Party Line, Kyle Carrero Lopez

Be Easy, Adrian Matejka

Interlocutor Goddess, Jasmine Reid

Párados, Jay Wright

“Poetry matters. Connection matters. Discovery matters. Living poets matter. The world is on fire, and poetry is both the balm and the smoke-warning.



KUNDIMAN RECOMMENDS

Shiny City, Ching-In Chen

We the Gathered Heat: Asian American and Pacific Islander Poetry, Performance, and Spoken Word, edited by Franny Choi, Bao Phi, No'u Revilla, and Terisa Siagatonu

The Hungering Years, Summer Farah

Iep Jāltok: Poems from a Marshallese Daughter, Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner

Seabeast, Rajiv Mohabir

Āina Hānau / Birth Land, Brandy Nālani McDougall

Don't Let It Kill You, Theo LeGro

The Daughter Industry, Soham Patel

Customs, Solmaz Sharif

Inside Me an Island, Lehua M. Taitano

WORDS WITHOUT BORDERS RECOMMENDS 10 BOOKS IN TRANSLATION

Between Fish Scales: Selected Poems, Leire Bilbao, Joana Urtasun, Leire Erviti

Ancient Algorithms, Katrine Øgaard Jensen, Ursula Andkjær Olsen

Something Evergreen Called Life, Rania Mamoun, Yasmine Seale

A Whale Is a Country, Isabel Zapata, Robin Myers

Distant Transit: Poems, Maja Haderlap, Tess Lewis

Cold Candies, Lee Young-ju, Jae Kim

Negative Space, Luljeta Lleshanaku, Ani Gjika

Chaos, Crossing, Olivia Elias, Kareem James Abu-Zeid

For Now I Am Sitting Here Growing Transparent, Yau Ching, Chenxin Jiang

No Gods Live Here: Poems, Conceição Lima, Shook

“One of my **most beloved August rituals.**”