



NEWS BRIEF

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Observe National Poetry Month with TeachingBooks.net

MADISON, WIS. (April 12, 2006) – Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month brings together communities around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital role in American culture. To help educators commemorate National Poetry Month, *TeachingBooks.net* offers two authors programs with original video that allows students to see and hear authors recite their own works of poetry and learn about the poem’s significance in context.

In 1955, 14-year-old Emmett Till was lynched in Mississippi, marking one of the key events that led to the American Civil Rights movement. Marilyn Nelson, a two-time Coretta Scott King recipient and Newbery Honor winner, authored a book of poetry in honor named “A Wreath for Emmett Till.” In the *TeachingBooks.net* author program, Nelson discusses the poem’s creation and reads from her haunting, unforgettable book. Additional resources such as published interviews, book guides and other multimedia materials are also provided in the author program to help educators incorporate this poem into their curriculum.

The winner of this year’s Caldecott Medal for “The Hello, Goodbye Window” — illustrator and author Chris Raschka — has produced a range of outstanding children’s books. The *TeachingBooks.net* original movie highlights Raschka’s illustrations in “A Poke in the I,” a collection of concrete poems that visually conveys the poet’s meaning through the graphic arrangement of words on the page. Other works by Raschka include “Mysterious Thelonious” and “Charlie Parker Played Be Bop.” The *TeachingBooks.net* author program also features an in-depth interview and links to useful websites.

For more information, or to sign up for a free, 14-day trial, visit www.teachingbooks.net.

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