



## 2025 Notable Poetry Books and Verse Novels

Selected by the NCTE Children's Poetry Award Committee

### 2025 Notable Books in Poetry

***A Planet Is a Poem.*** Amanda West Lewis. Illus. by Oliver Averill. 2024. Kids Can Press.

***Great Gusts: Winds of the World and the Science behind Them.*** Melanie Crowder & Megan Benedict. Illus. by Khoa Le. 2024. MIT Kids Press.

***Hoop Queens 2.*** Charles R. Smith Jr. 2024. Candlewick.

***I Heard: An American Journey.*** Jaha Nailah Avery. Illus. by Steffi Walthall. 2024. Charlesbridge.

***It's Time to Hush and Say Good Night.*** Chitra Soundar. Illus. by Sandhya Prabhat. Candlewick.

***Jam, Too?*** JaNay Brown-Wood. Illus. by Jacqueline Alcántara. 2024. Nancy Paulsen Books.

***Leafy Landmarks: Travels with Trees.*** Michelle Schaub. Illus. by Anne Lambelet. 2024. Sleeping Bear Press.

***Queer and Fearless: Poems Celebrating the Lives of LGBTQ+ Heroes.*** Rob Sanders. Illus. by Harry Woodgate. Penguin Workshop.

***The Mistakes That Made Us: Confession from Twenty Poets.*** Irene Latham & Charles Waters. Illus. by Mercè López. 2014. Carolrhoda Books.

***This Land Is a Lullaby.*** Tonya Simpson. Illus. Delreé Dumont. 2024. Orca Book Publishers.

***When I Wrap My Hair.*** Shauntay Grant. Illus. by Jenin Mohammed. 2024. Quill Tree Books.

***Wind Is a Dance.*** Debra Kempf Shumaker. Illus. by Josée Bisailon. 2024. Kids Can Press.

## 2025 Notable Verse Novels

*And Then, Boom!* Lisa Fipps. 2024. Nancy Paulsen Books.

*Black Star.* Kwame Alexander. 2024. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

*Black Girl You Are Atlas.* Renée Watson. Illus. by Ekoa Holmes. 2024. Kokila.

*Kareem Between.* Shifa Saltagi Safadi. 2024. G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.

*Louder Than Hunger.* John Schu. 2024. Candlewick.

*Mid-Air.* Alicia D. Williams. Illus. by Danica Novgorodoff. 2024. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books.

*Onyx & Beyond.* Amber McBride. 2024. Feiwel & Friends.

*Ultraviolet.* Aida Salazar. 2024. Scholastic Press.

*Unsinkable Cayenne.* Jessica Vitalis. 2024. Greenwillow Books.

## 2025 NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children Committee Members

Junko Sakoi, Chair, Tucson Unified School District, AZ

Willeena Booker, Hatboro-Horsham School District, Horsham, PA

Darryn Diuguid, McKendree University, Lebanon, IL

Glenda Funk, Pocatello/Chubbuck S. D. #25, Pocatello, ID

Joe Pizzo, Black River Middle School, NJ

April Halprin Wayland, author, instructor at UCLA Extension Writers' Program, Los Angeles, CA

Jongsun Wee, Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR