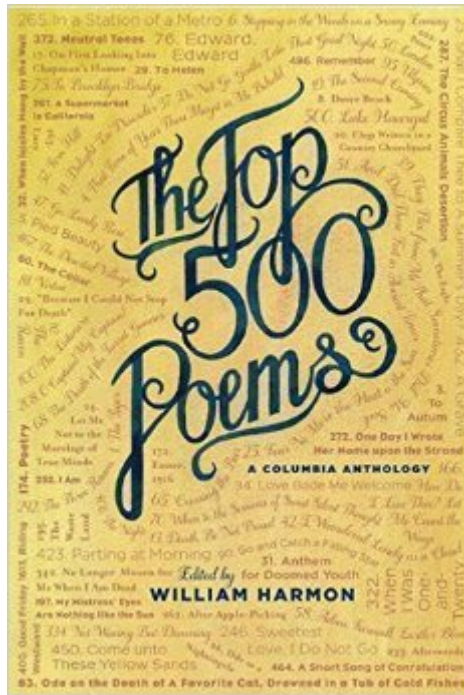


The book was found

The Top 500 Poems



Synopsis

The Top 500 Poems offers a vivid portrait of poetry in English, assembling a host of popular and enduring poems as chosen by critics, editors, poets, and general readers. These works speak across centuries, beginning with Chaucer's resourceful inventions and moving through Shakespeare's masterpieces, John Donne's complex originality, and Alexander Pope's mordant satires. The anthology also features perennial favorites such as William Blake, William Wordsworth, and John Keats; Emily Dickinson's prisms of profundity; the ironies of Wallace Stevens and T.S. Eliot; and the passion of Sylvia Plath and Allen Ginsberg. These 500 poems are verses that readers either know already or will want to know, encapsulating the visceral power of truly great literature. William Harmon provides illuminating commentary to each work and a rich introduction that ties the entire collection together.

Book Information

Series: Columbia Anthologies

Hardcover: 1132 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (October 15, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 023108028X

ISBN-13: 978-0231080286

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 2.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #173,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Textbooks >](#)

[Reference > Bibliographies & Indexes](#) #120 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research &](#)

[Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes](#) #124 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Research](#)

Customer Reviews

I like to buy this book as a present for people I like because I know I can hardly go wrong. (Forget the Godiva chocolates or the Heitz Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon: this will last!) Whether one is a wannabe rap master from Watts or a distinguished professor of English lit at the Sorbonne, there will be something here to please, I promise. It should be emphasized that this is a collection of strictly English language poetry, which means, for example, that none of verses from Edward Fitzgerald's very English translation of The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam appears even though some

of those verses are among the most popular and the most anthologized. It should also be noted that this is not a contemporary collection (copyright date, 1992) so there's no Gary Soto or Rita Dove or Louise Glück or even Margaret Atwood. It should also be pointed out that if you're looking into Keats's, e.g., "Ode to a Nightingale," for the first time, perhaps this is not the best place to find it since none of the poems are explicated. Editor William Harmon does give a brief note as an introduction to each poet, and concludes each poem with a brief comment. The collection is popular of course and spans English poetry from Chaucer to Sylvia Plath but there's nary a ditty to be found. Although T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" is here (hurrah!), there's nothing from his *Book of Practical Cats* (alas) and no Kipling's "If"! This is really high class stuff, quite simply the best. All the giants are here, Shakespeare, Donne, Pope, Burns, Keats, Shelley, Wordsworth, Ezra Pound, Andrew Marvell, Frost, Yeats, Dickinson, etc., etc. Some moderns are represented, Allen Ginsberg, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Lowell, Richard Wilbur, Philip Larkin, etc.

To begin, it's important to realize that "The Top 500 Poems" was compiled according to popularity in reproduction, not necessarily in terms of quality. It's also faced with the daunting task of representing English poetry from about 1300 or so until the 1900s. Therefore, it unavoidably has a couple of poems included that seem out of place. For instance, I didn't really need to have "The Purple Cow" or "Paul Revere's Ride" compiled for me, and I wouldn't have included a translated version of the General Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*. I sincerely doubt if any reader of the book has found all the poems included to his or her liking. However, the overwhelming quality of the bulk of the book more than makes up for the weak patches. "The Top 500 Poems" is well organized chronologically, giving the reader a definite sense of progression through history. The introductory paragraphs to each author are informative and concise, and the commentary after each poem is brief but illuminating. Most important, of course, are the poems themselves, which at their best glow with the energy of the greatest literature. Personal favorites included here are: "Western Wind," "They Flee From Me," "That Time of Year Thou Mayst in Me Behold," "The Sun Rising," "To Penshurst," "The Collar," "To His Coy Mistress," "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard," "Holy Thursday," "Composed Upon Westminster Bridge," "Kubla Khan," "Ozymandias," "Ode On a Grecian Urn," "Ulysses," "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed," "Because I Could Not Stop for Death," "God's Grandeur," "Sailing to Byzantium," "The Red Wheelbarrow," "Dulce et Decorum Est," "Fern Hill," "Church Going," and "Daddy," to name a few. Many, many more poems equally wonderful are included along with these.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

500 Low-carb Recipes - 500 Recipes, From Snacks To Dessert, That The Whole Family Will Love (500 Recipes, from Snacks to Dessert) The Top 500 Poems 500 Teapots Volume 2 (500 Series) 500 Tiles: An Inspiring Collection of International Work (500 Series) 500 Handmade Books Volume 2 (500 Series) 500 Baby & Toddler Dishes (500 Cooking (Sellers)) The \$500 Wedding: How to have a beautiful wedding and reception for \$500 McGraw-Hill's 500 ACT English and Reading Questions to Know by Test Day (Mcgraw Hill's 500 Questions to Know By Test Day) 500 Multiplication Worksheets with 3-Digit Multiplicands, 3-Digit Multipliers: Math Practice Workbook (500 Days Math Multiplication Series 10) 500 Addition Worksheets with Three 5-Digit Addends: Math Practice Workbook (500 Days Math Addition Series 10) 500 Addition Worksheets with Two 3-Digit Addends: Math Practice Workbook (500 Days Math Addition Series) 500 Addition Worksheets with Five 5-Digit Addends: Math Practice Workbook (500 Days Math Addition Series 20) TOP PLACES IN THE WORLD TO PLAN YOUR VACATION / HONEYMOON / RETIREMENT: Bonus Chapters Included: TOP 5 Places To Take Photos and Top 5 Places for "City ... vacation packages, vacation photos Book 1) 70 Wonderful Word Family Poems: A Delightful Collection of Fun-to-Read Rhyming Poems With an Easy-to-Use Lesson Plan for Teaching the Top 35 Word Families Dinnerware of the 20th Century: The Top 500 Patterns (Official Price Guides to Dinnerware of the 20th Century) TOP 500 Pizza & Pasta Recipes Cookbook (Vegetarian, Low-Carb, Vegan, Raw, Paleo, Farfalle (Bow Ties), Tagliatelle, Lasagna, Spaghetti, Stuffed Pasta, Simple Ingredients) Top 500 Instant Pot Pressure Cooker Recipes Cookbook Bundle (Slow Cooker, Slow Cooking, Meals, Chicken, Crock Pot, Instant Pot, Electric Pressure Cooker, Vegan, Paleo, Dinner) Top 500 Slow Cooker & Crock-Pot Recipes: The Collection Of Really Useful, Convenience-Food Recipes For Everyday Living Top 500 Ketogenic Diet and Low Carb Diet Recipes Cookbook Bundle: (Vegan, Muffins, Dump Meals, Donut, Freezer Meals, Waffles, Egg, Fat Bombs, Ice-Cream & Popsicles, Cup cake) Slow Cooking - Top 500 Slow Cooking Recipes Cookbook (Slow Cooker, Slow Cooker Recipes, Slow Cooking, Meals, Slow Cooker Chicken Recipes, Crock Pot, Instant Pot, Pressure Cooker, Vegan, Paleo)

[Dmca](#)