

Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute
Seminar description for 2023
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Poetry as Sound and Object

Poetry can often be the most intimidating of literary genres, for students and teachers alike. This seminar will aim to reduce that threshold of intimidation by focusing on poems as an experience of sound and as fascinating material objects with ties to the visual arts. A focus on sound makes poetry much more like song—and like songs, contemporary poets have added image to sound to create video poems. In seeing poems as objects, we will look at poems printed in ways that add to our experience of them. We will explore the relationship between poetry and book arts, a relationship reaching back to the Middle Ages that is alive and well in poetry of the present day—recent examples include Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen* (2014) and Tyehimba Jess’ *Olio* (2016). We will also look at, and create, poems that manipulate the poetic object, such as erasure poems. Throughout our sessions, we will consider how poetry can be mobilized as a teaching tool across many subjects and grade levels.