US Poet Laureates 2010-2022

*How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*

**DB96674**

By Joy Harjo

Collection of eighty-five poems, some previously published, by the United States poet laureate. The styles include storytelling, prayer, and song, and themes include generational pain, hope, Native American culture and mythology, art, identity, transformation, and activism. 2002.

*Life on Mars: Poems*

**DB74916**

By Tracy K. Smith

Award-winning collection of poems focusing on the universe at large and the meaning of human existence within it. In "Sci-Fi" Smith contemplates a "scrutable and safe" future. In "The Speed of Belief" she reflects on the life and death of her father. Pulitzer Prize. 2011.

*Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems*

**DBE00018**

By Juan Felipe Herrera

The 2015 Poet Laureate of the United States--the first from a Chicano background--reads a selection of his poems from the compilation "Half of the World in Light", which covers nearly four decades of his work. Made available by special arrangement with the author. 2008.

*Oblivion Banjo: The Poetry of Charles Wright*

**DB102171**

By Charles Wright

Collection of poetry selected from sixteen previously published books spanning in time from 1973 to 2014 by winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Bollingen Prize, and more. Themes explored include the use of language, idea of God, and ways we describe the world and its reality. Some strong language. 2019.

*Native Guard*

**DB65666**

By Natasha Trethewey

Poet explores both the racial legacy of the Civil War and her own biracial identity. The title poem tells the harrowing story of a soldier in Louisiana's Native Guard, a Union Army regiment made up of newly freed slaves. "South" expresses Trethewey's ambivalence toward her home, Mississippi. Pulitzer Prize. 2006.

*What Work Is: Poems*

**DB34000**

By Philip Levine

This volume won the 1991 Los Angeles Times Book Award for poetry. It is a collection celebrating the American worker, in which Levine explores the inner life of unsung heroes in unglamorous surroundings doing thankless jobs. He sees them living "at the borders of dreams," sustained by thoughts that "the day was ending," and examining "the faces on the bus, some going to work and some coming back."

*Opening the Hand: Poems*

**DB32064**

By W.S. Merwin

In this series of poems, the author shares some memories and thoughts of his boyhood and the places and people who created his identity. He brings together previously published poems to trace these life experiences.