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Exercise

[How to Read a Poem Out Loud](#) from the Library of Congress Poetry 180 w/ Former Poet Laureate Billy Collins

Notes

I want to start reading other people's poems out loud by following this structure

Title Author Anecdote Title (and 2 sec pause) Poem Title

- Read slowly. Read that again and breathe.
- Read in my speaking voice rather than as if I'm on stage or speaking to an audience ; Let the poem's words do the work just speak clearly and loudly
- Pauses happen at punctuation not when the line ends - stopping at line breaks reads as choppy
- Look up dictionary definitions for words I don't know or hear it pronounced if needed - also for names this is considerate; Mark phonetic pronunciation on paper or in front of me as needed
- Breathe! It's actually feeling more natural for me than I even hoped. Remember, learning to read a poem out loud is the best way to understand its meaning.