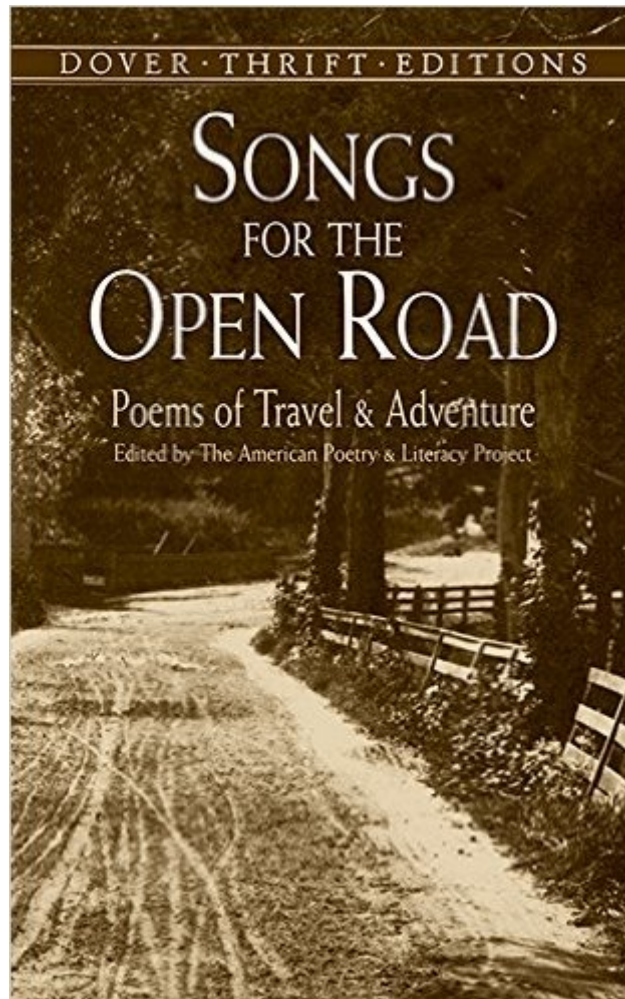


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Songs For The Open Road: Poems Of Travel And Adventure (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

Most of us, at one time or another, have experienced wanderlust. For many, the desire to explore is almost irresistible. Now for devotees of poetry, and for those who long for the open road, this highly affordable collection contains a rich selection of poems about travel and adventure. You'll find more than 90 poems by 50 American and British masters (mainly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries), including Whitman, Byron, Millay, Sandburg, Service, Bliss Carman, Robert Louis Stevenson, John Masefield, Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Shelley, Tennyson, Yeats, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Claude McKay, Christina Rossetti, and other fellow travelers. Their poems celebrate the real and metaphorical journeys each of us takes in the course of our lives towards love, discovery, loss, leaving the nest, and coming home. Whatever your mode of transportation, and wherever you are going, take this literary traveling companion with you for hours of reading enjoyment and insight into the road that lies ahead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This collection is divided into three sections, "Songs for the Open Road", "Sea, Rail and Sea", "Home, Rest, and Final Voyages". It contains many of the best-loved poems in the English language, poems not necessarily associated with subjects of Travel and Adventure, though they may touch upon them. One of the great examples is an Emily Dickinson selection "There is no

frigate like a book
To take us
Lands away.
Nor any corvette
like a page
of prancing
Poetry.
This
traverse
may the poorest
take
Without the oppressor's
Toll.
How frugal
is the Chariot
that bears a human
soul.
The title poem is from Whitman, and it sets the tone for what should be a highly enjoyable voyage, of mind, heart and soul.

It's hard to believe how many of the best poems in English are in this thin little book -- ninety poems for a dollar. I second the action of the Poetry Project in giving it free to lots of people. Buy one for your glove compartment, your office, your study, and your best reader friend!

A collection of poems, mostly in the public domain, which is diverting if not illuminating. They get points for including neglected poets such as Paul Dunbar and Charles McKay, black poets from the early 20th century. And there are old favorites who have been in a thousand anthologies, such as "The Road Not Taken." A few surprises but little that makes you stop in astonishment. A serviceable collection. Worth the \$2.

I really enjoyed this collection of poems, which ranged from the familiar to the unfamiliar, both in terms of poems and in poets. Some poems I'd read before, and I was aware of a few lines from others in this thin book, but others were new to me, and I enjoyed being introduced to some ones I hadn't read before. The price on this book makes it a great value!

This I bought because I joined a local poetry group to understand and try to like poetry! Yes, I have a Ph.D., and I am a writer for public consumption, and I always avoided poetry. My writing group urged me delve into poetry and try to find my favorite, and so being a retired college administrator, I chose this to begin my journey. I like it because it is a "project." I thought I'd start here.

This is a stunning little book -- as thin as it is and at a price that's practically free, it's got to pack as much value in it per gram as any book that sells. I must have at least half a dozen collections of favorite poems, but this one is the cream that rose to the top -- 80 immortal poems on the theme of travel organized into three sections: "Songs For the Open Road," "Sea, Rail, and Sky," and "Home, Rest and Final Voyages." The editors must have experienced a prolonged and awful agony deciding what to leave in and what to leave out, but it was worth it. Most poems are from the 19th and 20th centuries from poets like Langston Hughes, Walt Whitman, Tennyson, E.E. Cummings, William Blake, Emily Dickinson, Carl Sandburg, T.S. Eliot, Robert Frost, and many, many more. Leafing

through it, I was surprised at how many poems I knew from my past and how so many had become part of my life. For a traveler who loves poetry, you couldn't possibly pick a better going-away gift, and so small no matter how tightly packed they are, they'll still have room for "Songs of the Open Road." I bought a copy for my adult daughter who is setting out on a solo three-month ramble from Lisbon to the Black Sea. And now I've bought another copy for myself as I set out on another 10,000 mile road trip. I won't read this book at a single sitting, but rather I'll read one or two an evening to inform the following days wandering.

I'm so grateful that a lot of these older books are being re-issued for a much younger audience to enjoy them. This book is one that you will continue to read through the years. And pass it on to a youth that adores poetry.

What a great find. These poems range from classic to modern. The subject of the open road is the most human of all subjects and goes to both the search for meaning and the escape from sorrow. All great literature starts on the "Open Road."

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