

On March 3, Dakota Meyer, a student at the Iowa School for the Deaf, won the 2013 Iowa Poetry Out Loud state competition.

Dakota (DJ) travels to Washington, D.C. in April to compete for the National Poetry Out Loud championship.

Dakota competes using American Sign Language (ASL) - his first language.

Poetry Out Loud is a contest that encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. Over 365,000 high school students nationwide compete each year.

For the State and National contests students are required to recite at least one poem that was written before the 20th century and one that is 25 lines or fewer.

The first poem Dakota plans to recite at the national contest is by Edwin Arlington Robinson. Robinson was an American poet who won three Pulitzer Prizes for his work.

Let's congratulate Dakota Meyer – an Iowa champion! Good Luck in Washington, D.C., DJ!

Dakota's first poem in National competition

Richard Cory By [Edwin Arlington Robinson](#)

Whenever Richard Cory went down town,
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good-morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich—yes, richer than a king—
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head.