

I teach, read, and write poetry because I believe it's an elemental form of human expression and connection that transcends logic and creates magic. I first became excited about poetry when I was eight and my dad read me "The Creation of Sam McGee" then talked me into memorizing it together, a wonderful way to get poetry into a kid's bones. Since then, I've memorized about fifty poems, including Poe's "The Raven" and Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott." The next long poems I hope to memorize is Langston Hughes's "Let America Be America Again." (Most of the poems I know by heart are short. The most recently memorized is "The Tulips" by A.E. Stallings, a lovely poem whose strangeness and psychological complexity is belied by its light touch and absolute formal perfection.)