

FOOD IN POETRY: FROM MOTHER GOOSE TO WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

Abbreviated Study Group Name: Food Poetry

Coordinator: Irene Sax

The first poem you learned by heart probably was about food: “Pat-a-Cake, Pat-a-Cake, Baker’s Man”? “Pease Porridge Hot”? Poets such as Chaucer and Swift, Emily Dickinson and Wallace Stevens and the rappers Dead Prez, have all used food as - said W.H. Auden - a peg to hang the poem on. In this study group we sample the feast and talk about how and why poets choose to use food as the peg. We read poetry and talk about how the subject of preparing and consuming food can be a metaphor for love, loss, ethnicity, art and the beauty of the natural world.

Please click [here](#) for Syllabus.

Readings: A selection of poems is emailed to the group every week.

Irene Sax was the food editor of *Newsday* and a restaurant reviewer for the *Daily News*. She coordinated The Gastronomical Me.