

## Readers' Guide

Book clubs can be formal meetings or informal gatherings. Here are some ideas for generating discussion about the selections in *Muse 23*. This can happen in a classroom, in a library, or at the dining room table.

### **Guilt and Forgiveness**

How do the speakers in the following works deepen the notion of guilt? Who is responsible for what is being described? Does the speaker in each poem or essay believe forgiveness is possible? Do you?

The 14<sup>th</sup> Blackbird  
Sort by Date of Death  
Unsaid  
An Unspoken Accord

Kathleen Johnston  
Shiwei Zhou  
Lauren Edwards  
Lorraine Camanor

### **Identity and Community**

How do the people inhabiting these poems answer the question, “Who am I?” How do the perceptions of others factor into their answers?

Charlene  
More Than Just a Number  
Caution and Sorrow  
Moses

Lynette Lamp  
HS  
Lisa Park  
Alejandra Pena

### **Letting Go**

Illness often means relinquishing control. This loss also transfers to close family and friends. Is there any benefit to accepting this? Compare and contrast the process in the following pieces.

For You I Would Wish  
Blue Henry

Jennifer Campbell  
Elizabeth Crowell

Cell Rebellion  
Nothing Lasts

Kal Tayman  
Grey Held