

THROUGH SETBACKS AND STEPS FORWARD

CINDY LUONG

THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

On hold—

Eighteen scorching Book Bingo summers at
The Seattle Public Libraries

Within the latticed windows of the Central
Branch,
My fourth grade team placed third at the
Global Reading Challenge
We cried boiling tears of defeat as
The autumn Seattle rain mourned with us

Hold paused—

I've gained fourteen inches and
Outgrew the South Park librarian
Her hair short like our winters
Her smile
Like a spring day at the UW quad

Check out—

One book
Passed
Loved
And passed on

Through setbacks and steps forward
The libraries are
Here
For me
For you
For us

Check in.

*Cindy Luong works for the Seattle Youth Employment
Program (SYEP) and makes art for fun.*

POETRY IN PLACE



Civic Poet Shin Yu Pai selected 5 poets from the local community for this public poetry project. Poems are installed in Belltown, Little Saigon, the Central District, South Lake Union, Greenwood, South Park, and downtown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: JAYME YEN

**national
poetry month**

**academy of
american poets**

