



How to...



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY
National Poetry Month, which marks 30 years this year, was launched in 1996 by the American Academy of Poets.

Write your own poems

Express your thoughts and ideas during National Poetry Month.

April is National Poetry Month and a great time to celebrate this form of creative expression. Many writers enjoy poetry in part because there are no real rules to writing a poem. However, there are some helpful guidelines that can get you started.

Read the work of poets

Reading other poets' work can help you explore what kinds of poetry you might like to write. Ask a teacher for recommendations, or visit your local library and ask a librarian to guide you to the poetry section. The box at right features a few suggestions.

Select a subject

When thinking about what to write, you can start by observing what's around you or considering what you love. It can be anything, such as a sport you're passionate about, a favorite pet, or a memorable place you've visited. You can also draw inspiration from causes that matter to you, such as protecting the planet.

Consider different poetic forms

In rhyming poems, the first line may rhyme with the second, the third line may rhyme with the fourth, and

so on. Other common styles include free verse, in which you can rhyme or not rhyme at all, and lines more closely resemble the patterns of everyday speech. In a haiku, a Japanese form of poetry, the first and third lines have five syllables and the middle one has seven. To explore more types of poetry and poets, check out poetryfoundation.org.

Start writing

Keep a small notebook or a note on your device dedicated to jotting down your ideas. Write down anything that strikes you, from colors to sights to sounds. From there, you can start writing your poem. Once your poem is finished, put it away for a day. Then look at it again and make any edits until you're happy with the final version.

Share it with someone

After you finish, read your poem to a family member, a teacher, or even your pet. Saying a poem out loud brings it to life. You may also find that other people relate to your poem. If you write a poem, we'd love to read it! Please have a parent or guardian send it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com.



Discover your poetry style.

3 legendary poets

Langston Hughes was known for writing about the everyday lives of Black Americans.

Among his works was a book of poems for children, *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*. Ages 8–12



Nikki Giovanni was called a "poet of the people" because of her simple language about complex issues.

One of her collections is *Ego-Tripping and Other Poems for Young People*. Ages 10–16



Robert Frost was voted "class poet" in high school, and his work was often inspired by life in

New England. Some of his famous poems can be found in the book *Poetry for Kids: Robert Frost*. Ages 8–14

