



The Mini Page

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Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Award-winning books



Poetry All Around

Mini Fact:

Amanda Gorman is 23 years old. She was born in Los Angeles.

Were you watching when Amanda Gorman, the 2017 National Youth Poet Laureate*, read her tribute to essential workers before the Super Bowl? Gorman also read a poem she wrote, "The Hill We Climb," at the inauguration of President Joe Biden in January.

April is National Poetry Month. This week, The Mini Page learns more about this creative way of expressing our thoughts and feelings.

Exploring poetry

The rhymes we learn when we're very young stick with us for years and years. This is because poetry makes our words more memorable.

Poetry is not always rhyming words. But it always uses language in a remarkable way.

Ancient people believed that because poets could build a story or a thought in an interesting way, they had more power than ordinary people.



For instance, religious texts might be written in a **rhythmic** (RITH-mic) verse. These words seemed inspired by higher powers.

People also made warnings and curses more memorable with verse, such as this saying:

*Red sky at night, sailor's delight;
red sky at morning, sailors take warning.*

* A poet laureate serves as the official poet of the United States. The Youth Poet Laureate honor is awarded each year.

Kids and poetry

Kids naturally love poetry. Children make up rhymes all the time, even using nonsense words.

Some of children's favorite authors are poets, including Shel Silverstein and Dr. Seuss, who was famous for nonsense lines like this one from "Bartholomew and the Oobleck":

Shuffle, duffle, muzzle, muff!

What is poetry?

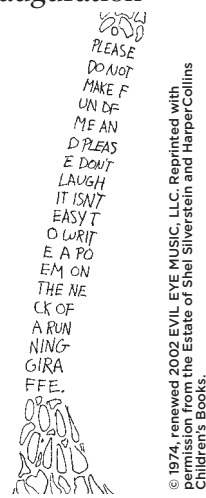
When someone writes a story using **prose** (language written or spoken in an ordinary way), the story is the most important thing.

But when an author uses poetry, the way the words read or sound is part of the goal, along with the story.

Gorman's recent performances are great examples of how the **cadence**, or rhythmic flow, and timing can make words much more dramatic. (Watch Gorman's inauguration presentation here: bit.ly/MPGorman.)

Visual poetry

Visual poetry is meant to be seen. For example, a poem about the ocean might be written in the shape of waves, or a poem about baseball might be written in the shape of a ball. This is also called a **calligram**.



Concrete poetry

With concrete poetry, the author might arrange the words and letters on the page to make an interesting pattern. This is similar to visual poetry, but the picture doesn't go with the poem. It's usually just a neat design.

Sound poetry

This type of poetry uses noises that sound interesting together but may not mean anything.

- **Assonance** is a vowel sound repeated within a line, such as:

How now brown cow?

- **Consonance** is a consonant sound repeated within a line, such as:

Pitter patter.

Rhyme

Most people think of poems as always rhyming, but they don't. Even when they do, there are different kinds of rhyming.

- **Perfect**, such as *moon* and *June*
- **Sight** rhymes, such as *though* and *bough*. These words don't rhyme when we say them, but they look the same on the page.
- **Slant** rhymes, in which the last consonant is the same, such as *whip* and *top*
- **Head** rhymes, in which the beginnings of stressed words sound the same, such as *pretty as a picture*. This is also called **alliteration**.

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPpoetry

At the library:

- "A Year of Nature Poems" by Joseph Coelho
- "Home Run, Touchdown, Basket, Goal!" by Leo Landry

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of poetry are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ALLITERATION,	S	G	O	Y	H	A	S	S	O	N	A	N	C	E	J
AMANDA, ASSONANCE,	N	O	I	T	A	R	U	G	U	A	N	I	L	A	E
CADENCE, CONCRETE,	L	R	C	O	N	S	O	N	A	N	C	E	M	L	T
CONSONANCE, GORMAN,	A	M	I	E	C	N	E	D	A	C	U	O	B	H	L
INAUGURATION,	U	A	Y	A	M	A	N	D	A	B	N	A	G	O	A
LAUREATE, MEMORABLE,	R	N	I	Y	R	T	E	O	P	T	R	I	C	X	U
MONTH, PERFECT,	E	T	E	R	C	N	O	C	H	O	S	L	X	C	S
POETRY, RHYTHMIC,	A	D	N	U	O	S	C	I	M	H	T	Y	H	R	I
SIGHT, SLANT, SOUND,	T	K	A	L	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	V
VISUAL.	E	S	L	A	N	T	M	W	P	E	R	F	E	C	T

Cook's Corner

Orange Chicken Stir-Fry

You'll need:

- 2 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- 2 cups raw chicken, cut into strips
- 2 carrots, sliced in diagonal strips
- 1 cup sugar snap peas
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, sliced
- 1 green pepper, cut in strips

- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds or cashews



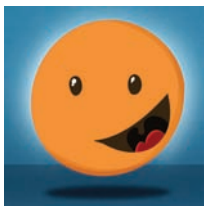
What to do:

1. Heat 1 teaspoon olive oil in wok on medium heat; stir-fry chicken for 5 to 8 minutes until cooked through. Remove chicken to separate bowl.
2. Heat second teaspoon olive oil; add all vegetables and stir-fry for 3 to 5 minutes until crisp-tender. Add chicken back to wok.
3. In a small bowl, combine orange juice with cornstarch. Add soy sauce, honey and ground ginger. Mix well. Pour sauce over chicken and vegetables; heat until sauce thickens slightly. Sprinkle nuts on top. Serve with rice. Serves 2.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. not guilty (8) _____
2. underground animal home (6) _____
3. twice as much (6) _____
4. Dumbo or Horton (8) _____
5. unpleasant (6) _____
6. place to look at art (6) _____
7. high-priced (9) _____

EUM	DOU	EL	CRA
EPH	CENT	ENS	BUR
ROW	EXP	BLE	MUS
BBY	INNO	IVE	ANT

Answers: innocent, burrow, double, elephant, crabby, museum, expensive.

Mini Jokes



Paul: Which poet always did his work carefully and completely?

Pearl: Henry David Thorough!

Eco Note



Parts of southeastern Australia have been overrun by a massive infestation of mice, with the ravenous rodents swarming into people's homes and threatening crops. The center of the infestation is in rural New South Wales, but the pests have also spread into parts of Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. Researcher Steve Henry blames abundant rainfall and a good harvest for allowing mice to spike in numbers starting last year.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for an article that interests you, then write a poem about it.

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