

## Poetry prompts

1. Choose a tree, flower, or similarly nonverbal but living thing that has held some significance for you over the course of your life. Write a poem in its honor.
2. Write a love poem that points to how you have been formed by your favorite books, writers, and literature
3. Think about an unusual ritual or belief among your family, friends, or community. Write a poem about your knowledge of its origins and how it has evolved over the years.
4. Write a poem that explores the idea of a day that lasts not twenty-four hours, but is shortened to just a fraction of that, or conversely stretches way beyond it.
5. Rewrite yesterday's poem from a child's perspective
6. Write a poem that takes inspiration from an absence or emptiness of a person, place, or feeling.
7. Every year, the Oxford English Dictionary chooses a word or expression that has attracted a great deal of interest over the last 12 months. This year's Word of the Year is "toxic". Write a poem about this.
8. Try offering some advice to someone in a poem
9. Choose an object that you have never really given much thought to, but that you see frequently in your home or on your commute, perhaps a houseplant or a mailbox or a street sign. Spend some time intensely observing it, and then jot down a thorough physical description. Afterwards, write a poem about the object.
10. Write a poem about something that you were told when you were growing up that has turned out to be wrong in one way or another.
11. Write a poem that starts with the phrase "You were always more than...."
12. Write a poem about an object that is the last of its kind to ever exist, either in reality or hypothetically.
13. Use the last sentence of yesterday's poem as the first sentence in today's poem.
14. Choose a line from a favorite song and use it as inspiration to write a poem



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16. It's Haiku-sday! Write a Haiku.
17. Write a poem based on a favorite travel memory
18. Write a poem inspired by a marshmallow Peep.
19. Write a poem that centers on a misheard conversation between two people.
20. Write a poem based on a dream you or someone you know has had.
21. Write a poem about a bridge.
22. Write a love poem to earth.
23. Write a poem about a record-holding city, using a real or humorously obscure record of your invention.
24. Choose a piece of art from the digital age that speaks to you and try speaking back to it in the form of a poem. Your subject could be a photograph, film, or television show. Or it could be even more unexpected: a podcast, a commercial, even a tweet or a meme.
25. Write a poem as a response to a nonfiction piece or news report covering a specific event from 2018.
26. Write a poem that is 26 words long.
27. Pick up a book of your choice. Turn to page 27. Use the first line on that page to write a poem.
28. Write about something you don't want to do.
29. Choose a spice from your kitchen cabinet and relate its flavor to an event that has happened recently in your daily life.



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