# Poetry Activities for Children

## April 2020

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| Discover this Poet: Jack Prelutsky  
Read two of his poems—your choice! | Think of four words that rhyme, then write a four-line poem and end each line of the poem with one of your rhyming words. | Poets often carry a notebook with them to write down words or phrase that may become part of a new poem. Create your own poetry notebook to carry around with you! | What if sidewalks got headaches while you walked on them? Write a poem about what the sidewalk would say! | Songs are a great way to hear rhymes, discover new words, and feel emotions. Try to listen to one song a day to inspire you. | You have the ability to breathe underwater for one hour! Write a poem about all the things you see while you’re in the ocean or sea. | Read another poem today! |
| 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       | 19     |
| Discover this Poet: Naomi Shihab Nye  
Read two of her poems—your choice! | Your pet suddenly knows how to sing and asks you to help them write the words to a song! Share the words to the song in a poem. | Create a writing space for yourself that allows you some quiet and the ability to concentrate on your poetry. | Using an old supermarket sales circular or magazine, cut random words out and make a poem. | Poets often use nature as their inspiration to write. What part of nature inspires you to write? | Take a quick walk outside with an adult for 10 minutes and write down all the noises you hear in your poetry notebook. | Read another poem today! |
| 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       | 26     |
| Discover this Poet: Douglas Florian  
Read two of his poems—your choice! | A haiku is a poem of three lines that celebrates some part of nature. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables. Write a haiku! | Poets sometimes get on a stage and read their poems to an audience. Practice reading a poem to an audience. It could be another person, your pet, or your stuffed animal! | An ode is a feelings-rich poem celebrating something. What would you write an ode to? A frog? A blueberry? The library? | Share a poem you’ve discovered and enjoyed with a relative. You can share the poem in person, or by a telephone call. | Think of good adjectives that could enhance the imagery in your poem. For example, an ancient house, a brisk wind, the blistering sun. | Read another poem today! |
| 27     | 28      | 29        | 30       |        |          |        |
| Discover this Poet: Nikki Grimes  
Read two of her poems—your choice! | You wake up to find that you’re an astronaut floating above planet earth! Write a poem about what you see. | Keep all the pages in your poetry notebook. Don’t throw any of them away just because they don’t contain completed poems. You never know when a phrase or image from your notebook will provide inspiration! | Wow—you’ve completed a month of poetry! Write a poem of celebration! |          |          |        |

**MORE TO SHARE!**

### Other Sources of Inspiration
- Animals
- Architecture
- Colors
- Photographs
- Scents/Smells
- Signs in your neighborhood

### Example of a Haiku
A lone maple leaf (5 syllables)  
Falling softly to the ground (7 syllables)  
By a light, crisp breeze (5 syllables)

### Other Poets to Explore
- Alma Flor Ada
- Bob Raczka
- Francisco X. Alarcón
- Joyce Sidman
- Nikki Giovanni
- Sarah Crossan
- Sharon Creech
- Shel Silverstein