

Poem me This

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As March comes to it's final end
April will ascend
So here this, in advance
Though April 1 is April Fools perchance
But here there is no silly catch
But for you to prepare to make a batch
For once again in our society
April tis' the month of poetry

April is National Poetry Month, a month-long celebration of poetry and poets that was inaugurated by the Academy of American poets (<http://www.poets.org/>) in April 1996 to increase acceptance of poetry in our day-to-day culture. I hope each of you can find the time and opportunity to join in this nationwide celebration of the art. There are several ways you could do this: write, read, recite or share. I promise you that if you do not enjoy the exercise, it will increase your intelligence, as exposure to the arts surely does. In researching a thing, the more detail you discover, the easier it becomes to recall especially if, you put yourself into the work.

In order to encourage your participation, I challenge you to use this month as an excuse to write one new poem every day, (It's not that difficult). Turn off your internal editor. Set your standards low; don't try for the Pulitzer. Just write something each day. To help you meet this challenge, I offer the following list of 30 writing prompts and exercises, for each day in April. At the end of the month, you will have written enough to be called a collection or a poetry chap book! Look at you! :)

1. Write, Read, Recite or Share a Limerick – sure, go all out Tom or Thomasina foolery, for April Fools Day, if you like.
2. Write, Read, Recite or Share a three–line poem where all three lines have an end rhyme.
3. Write, Read, Recite or Share an acrostic poem.
4. Write, Read, Recite or Share a 5 to 10 line poem starting with one word , then making each following line one word more.
5. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that asks for help.
6. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that is opposite to a common saying (e.g. People who live in glass houses should throw stones. Run before you crawl. Two birds in a bush are worth more than one in your hand and etc.).
7. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem about water.
8. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem from a list you make called, “Things I Do with My Sister or Brother or Friend that I'd never do with my boss!”
9. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem with your name hidden inside it.

10. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that is a letter to someone you love and there's a pink moon tonight on April 10th. Go all out pedantic, romantic or gigantic! :)
11. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem backwards, starting with the last line.
12. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that's in couplets.
13. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that embarrasses you, makes you human.
14. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem using words from another language as well as English.
15. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that includes the words: rainbow, caterpillar, explode, dream and risk.
16. Write, Read, Recite or Share an acrostic poem with letters down the left-hand side of the paper then write a common saying on each line (e.g. All's well that ends well..) today is Easter Sunday. Make it sunny or Easter Bunny Funny.
17. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem about something you fear or dread.
18. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that includes the word, cataclysmic. Yes, this is tax day. :)
19. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem about finding the perfect winter coat or spring hat.
20. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that is a pantoum. Yay, dictionary time!
21. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that is a Recipe
22. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem using similes such as: rough as a , stumbling like a , hungry as a , and laughing like ...
23. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that uses all five senses.
24. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem in a new syllabic or metric form, lines of the same length containing the same numbers of syllables. A haiku is an example. A three-line poem rhymed or not, typically about nature and it uses 5 • 7 • 5 syllables respectively.
25. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that uses a recent newspaper headline, as a fairy tale
26. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem using 10 words taken from another old poem.
27. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem with a refrain or line that repeats at least 3 times
28. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem about a cat or a dog
29. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem without any punctuation.
30. Write, Read, Recite or Share a poem that begins with "This is the last poem of this month..."

Now I hope you will try this for thirty days. If words are not clear, look them up. Learning is an exciting adventure. I am but a comment away if you need help. Try to write, read, recite or share something every day in April. Better yet, why not all of these?

"Having confidence in thy [ability] I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say."

Philemon 1:21
King James Version (KJV)

original: "obedience" intentionally edited with the word, "ability"