

30 DAY POETRY CHALLENGE

This poetry challenge is in honor of National Poetry Month. There are 30 poetry prompts provided here, one per day. (Originally found via Facebook, slightly adapted)

Day 1: Write a poem where each line starts with a letter from your first name (an acrostic). It can be about anything, but it should not be about you or your name.

Day 2: Who was the last person you texted? Write a five line poem to that person.

Day 3: Find the nearest book (of any kind). Turn to page 8. Use the first ten full words on the page in a poem. You may use them in any order, anywhere in the poem.

Day 4: Write a haiku (a three line poem where the first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables). Haikus are often about nature, but yours can be about anything.

Day 5: Write a three-line poem about lemons without using the following words: lemon, yellow, round, fruit, citrus, tart, juicy, peel, and sour.

Day 6: Write a poem of any length incorporating every word from your latest FB status update.

Day 7: Take a walk until you find a tree you identify with, then write a poem using the tree as a metaphor for yourself or your life.

Day 8: Write a cinquain on a topic of your choice (1st line = 2 syllables, 2nd line = 4 syllables, 3rd line = 6 syllables, 4th line = 8 syllables, 5th (final line) = 2 syllables).

Day 9: Quickly jot down four verbs, four adjectives, and four nouns. Write a poem utilizing all 12 words.

Day 10: Pick a one line song lyric to serve as an epigraph to your poem. Then, write the poem to accompany it. The poem need not be directly related to the song.

Day 11: Write a list poem.

Day 12: Tell your life story in 6 words (see smithmag.net for more on this . . .).

Day 13: Write a short poem that a child would like.

Day 14: Write a bad poem, make it as lousy as you can, do everything wrong, let yourself be awful.

Day 15: Post a poem (written by someone else) that you love (for any reason).

Day 16: Respond to the poem you posted yesterday (Day 15) with a poem of your own.

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Day 17: Write a poem that employs a rhyme scheme. It can be a poem in verse or not. "Tell it slant" or not.

Day 18: Write a poem without any end rhyme, only internal rhyme.

Day 19: Imagine yourself performing any household task/chore, then write a poem using what you've imagined as an extended metaphor for writing: an Ars Poetica.

Day 20: Write a narrative poem detailing a specific childhood memory.

Day 21: Choose one of the poems you've already written and posted as part of this challenge and re-order it in some way. You could rearrange the lines or stanzas/strophes or even words in a line. Think of it as a puzzle that you are taking apart and putting back together in a new way!

Day 22: What is the first car you bought/drove/remember? Write a poem about it.

Day 23: Write a seven line poem that begins with "it's true that fresh air is good for the body" (from Frank O'Hara's poem "Ave Maria") and ends with "this is our body" (from Gary Snyder's "The Bath").

Day 24: Write a poem that's different in some way from anything you've ever written. Take a chance! Be wild!

Day 25: Write a poem that includes all of the following words: pistachio, ink, pebble, weather, varnish.

Day 26: Gather some magazines/catalogs you don't mind cutting up and spend 10 minutes flipping through the magazines/catalogs looking for words/sentences that spark your interest. Cut out the words as you go. When the 10 minutes are up, arrange the words to piece together a cut-up poem.

Day 27: Begin with the title "The Poem I'd Never Write." Then, write a poem to accompany that title.

Day 28: Visit a virtual art gallery and take a look around until you find a piece that intrigues you. Write a poem inspired by the artwork.

Day 29: Briefly research a poetic form of your choice and write a poem according to the rules of that particular form.

Day 30: Write a poem employing extended metaphor to illustrate the experience of the last 30 days as you were participating in the challenge.

Websites

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resou...>

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning...>