

## Friends of NCTC Program Activity

### **PoeTree: Creating Poems from Nature**

Ages 5 and up

#### **Background**

How many of us have heard a poem before? Sometimes we aren't aware that we've heard one. Our favorite nursery rhymes, like "Mary had a little lamb" or "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and even some books, like Dr.Suess, contain poems. Poetry is believed to have come before written word. The word, poetry, means "to create". Artists have been creating throughout history. Today we are going to try creating for ourselves. Poetry comes in many forms. Some common forms are haiku, limericks, acrostic, concrete, or free verse poetry. Let's discuss each type in more detail.

**Haikus** are three-lined poems that usually describe nature. Each line contains a syllable count. Syllables can be counted as the number of beats or unbroken sounds in each word. The first and third line have five syllables while the second has seven.

**Limericks** have five lines and usually describe a silly event. The first, second, and last line normally rhyme with each other. The third and fourth line have a separate rhyme.

**Acrostic** poems spell a word vertically. This word often describes the main idea of the poem. Each line begins with a letter of the vertical word.

**Concrete** poems are shaped like the main idea of the poem. As example, a poem written about a tree will be shaped like one.

**Free verse** poetry doesn't have a set rhyme or line pattern. These poems have the most freedom and can look very different to each other.

Today we are going to use nature to inspire our poem. Feel free to look up other types of poems, chose your favorite to write, or invent your own style. Poetry is used to express ourselves so there is no wrong way of creating one. Once you've created your masterpiece, feel free to send it to us so it can be featured on our kid's page.

#### **What You Will Need**

Something to write your poem on: Paper, tablet, ect.

Something to write your poem with: Pencil, pen, markers or crayons

(Other supplies optional if you want to decorate the page your poem is written on)

#### **What to Do**

- Go outside for inspiration
- Use your creativity to write about the nature around you

- Tip: find a tree that you find beautiful, look at the specifics (Examples: What colors can you see? How tall is it? Are there any animals on it? Does it have fruit or nuts on it? What shape are the leaves? Do the branches start near the ground or only up high? Can you see any roots? What can you hear nearby? Is the tree growing by itself or is it surrounded by other things?), and try and put it into words.
- Bonus: Add decorations around your poem (drawings, pressed flowers, glue leaves, ect.)

### **Helpful Hints for Adults**

Different forms of poetry: [Poetry for Kids \( With Examples & Tasks\) — Literacy Ideas](#)

Tree Poetry examples: [poems-about-trees.pdf \(arborday.org\)](#)

Another poem example, “Let’s plant a tree” by Aileen Fisher: [Poetry for Children: A Poem for Arbor Day](#)