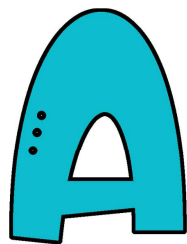


## UNLEASH YOUR INNER POET!

Sometimes you might suddenly be struck with enthusiasm about something you love, just filled with joy about it. Take that moment to have fun playing with words that capture how you feel. Maybe a picture in your mind forms along with the feeling. If so, describe that, too.



### Giraffe

I just want you to know  
today I am a giraffe!  
See, I hardly even had to try --  
my eyes are riding up so high  
it makes me laugh  
to see my body far below.  
Up here are leafy, secret places  
I could never reach before!  
It's fun to have my neck grow long  
though stretching down somehow feels wrong;  
with legs as high up as the door  
I'll find my favorite outdoor spaces.  
I know that now it's time to go  
and do the things a child does.  
Still, so you know, I will rise  
with tree top places for my prize  
at any moment just because  
I love this world both high and low!



**Stephanie Mirocha**

*Stephanie Mirocha is a working artist in Aitkin, MN. Her paintings capture subjects of inspiration through watercolor, oil, silk painting and acrylic. Nature is a recurring theme in both her painting and her writing. Her poetry book for adults, Fortune Cookie Poems, can be found on her website along with her artwork.*

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