

# Tea Time *Poetry*



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# Welcome



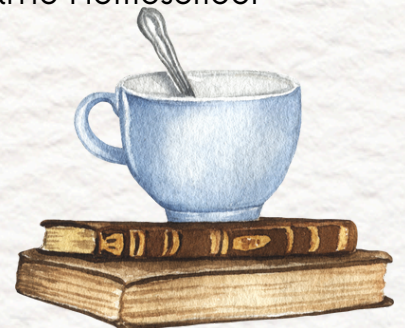
Pour yourself a cup of tea, put your feet up, and let's have a little poetry tea party. Let me tell you a little secret. My kids hated poetry. I almost gave up trying to include poetry into our homeschooling. Then one day my daughter (who like me loves tea parties), asked if we could have a tea party at lunch. Now, who am I to turn down a tea party invitation? So I made a few PB & J sandwiches, removed the crusts and cut them into triangles. Then with a few English muffins, I made a few mini pizzas with some left over marina sauce we had. I sprinkled some cheese on top and baked them in the toaster oven. Joe helped me make some chocolate milk, and we poured it into my mom's china cups. I remembered Francesca had written a few poems about manatees the day before so I told her to bring them to the party. Then, I lit a candle, we sat down, and started eating our yummy tea sandwiches. Francesca recited her manatee poems, and Joe made up a few "roses are red, your feet stink" poems. They were having so much fun, I ran to the bookshelf and pulled out my favorite Shel Silverstein poetry book, *Where the Side Walk Ends*. I told them I didn't want to be left out so I read my favorite poem, "Smart."

Viola! Just like that! A new homeschooling tradition was born: Poetry Tea Time! After that serendipitous afternoon, each month I tried to plan an afternoon poetry tea party. But any day is a perfect day for a poetry tea party! You only need three ingredients: tea, treats, and some poetry. Halting the chaos of the week or pausing the hustle and bustle of the day for a restorative cup of tea (or mug of hot chocolate, cup of hot cider, or glass of lemonade) can create a perfect place for fun with rhymes, riddles, sonnets, and limericks. Pick a few flowers and put them in a vase. Play some classical music in the background. Light a candle. Pour a little tea in a china cup and read some of your favorite poetry. Better yet, have your children share original poems they have composed or recite poetry they have memorized. That's it! It can be a fancy high tea with china, cucumber sandwiches, and Shakespearean sonnets, a Japanese tea with sushi, mochi, and haiku poems, or a backyard tea with ants on a log celery stick, lemonade, and Shel Silverstein poems.

I compiled for you monthly poetry tea party ideas that are easy to plan (or can be done spontaneously). Each Tea Party Plan includes a theme, a recipe (or two), a few poetry book recommendations, a poetry template to create original poems, a game or fun poetry activity, and a bible verse or poet quote for copy work or inspiration. For more ideas on how to start your own Poetry Tea Time Party, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time"](#).

May the Lord bless your tea time for His glory,

— Carrie —  
**DE FRANCISCO**







*"What would I do?" I said to Pooh, "If it wasn't for you,"  
and Pooh said: "True, It isn't much fun for One, but Two."  
~A. A. Milne*

Love is in the air. February is a time to celebrate friendship and love. This month's theme celebrates familial and platonic love: Friendship Tea Time. Celebrate with the friends. Play with siblings. Give hugs. Read friendship poems. Recite 1 Corinthians 13 free verse poetry. Create sonnet poems.

## Poetry Book Recommendations

- **The Complete Poems Of Winnie-The-Pooh** by A. A. Milne and Ernest Shepard (illustrator)
- **Now We are Six** by A. A. Milne and Ernest Shepard (illustrator)
- **Poetry for Kids: William Shakespeare** by William Shakespeare and Merce Lopez (illustrator)
- **Bear Hugs: Romantically Ridiculous Animal Rhymes** by Karma Wilson
- **Love Is: An Illustrated Exploration of God's Greatest Gift** by Zondervan

## Poetry Activity

### Valentine PUNS

A fun literary device to use in poetry is a Pun. A pun is a play on words. Shakespeare used it often. Most Dad Jokes are puns. What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day? "I'm stuck on you!" Create Valentine Puns to give to friends. Illustrate the pun (or attach a corresponding gift). Here are a few to get you started.

1. **Orange** you glad we're friends? (Draw two oranges or give your friend an orange.)
2. You are **purrfect** for me. (Draw a cat or give your friend a Kit Kat candy bar.)
3. I love you a **latte**! (Draw a cup of coffee or give your friend a Starbucks gift card.)
4. You are #1 in my **book**! (Draw a book or give your friend a book or a bookmark.)







## Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Everyone loves chocolate covered strawberries. Decorate with sprinkles for added fun.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 16 ounces milk chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- toothpicks
- 1 pound fresh strawberries with leaves



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Melt chocolate and shortening in a double boiler, (or in a bowl over boiling water) stirring occasionally until smooth.
2. Insert toothpicks into tops (stem ends) of strawberries. Hold a strawberry by the toothpick and dip it into the chocolate mixture.
3. Turn the strawberry upside down and place strawberry on a sheet of waxed paper; allow chocolate coating to cool. Repeat with remaining strawberries.

## Honey Banana Sandwiches

In honor of Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin's friendship

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2/3 cup honey
- 10 slices whole wheat bread
- 3 bananas, sliced



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Spread both the top and bottom slices with honey and fill with the bananas.
2. Trim the crust and cut into fourths or cut the sandwiches into decorative shapes with a cookie cutter.







## Compose Original Sonnets

The sonnet is one of the most common traditional poetic forms. They have been written for hundreds of years with some of the most well-known sonnets written by William Shakespeare.

### A Sonnet follows this format:

- It is fourteen lines long.
- The fourteen lines are divided into three groups, or "stanzas," of four lines each, followed by a final two-line "couplet." (A four-line stanza is also known as a "quatrain" (or two pairs of couplets -two lines that rhyme.)
- The three stanzas follow a ABAB rhyme scheme.
- Each line is ten syllables long. (This is the hard part!)
- The final couplet has an AA rhyme scheme (The last two lines rhyme.)
- The first line of a sonnet should state the "theme" or topic of the sonnet.
- The final couplet should give the reader a "conclusion" or ending to the poem.

### My Teacher Said to Write a Sonnet Now

My teacher said to write a sonnet now.	A
She told me, "It should be a work of art."	B
I'd like to but I'm really not sure how.	A
I wish someone would show me where to start.	B

I heard the rhymes should be ABAB,	A
which means I can't rhyme every single word.	B
The second and the fourth lines rhyme, you see.	A
And you should rhyme the first line with the third.	B

The first three stanzas all have four lines each.	A
The final couplet? That has only two.	B
A sonnet's not an easy thing to teach.	A
I guess that's what this poem aims to do.	B

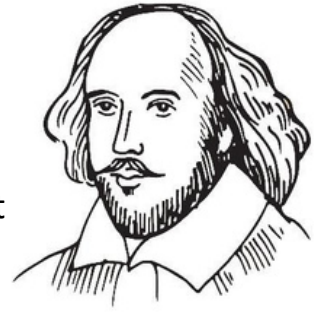
It seems that starting was the hardest part.	A
I hope the teacher likes my work of art.	A





# Shakespeare Sonnets

A **sonnet** is a 14-line poem, with three four-line quatrains and one two-line couplet. Each line has ten syllables. The letters on each line below show the rhyme scheme. Write your own sonnet here



Line 1 (A): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 (B): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3 (A): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 4 (B): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 5 (C): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 6 (D): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 7 (C): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 8 (D): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 9 (E): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 10 (F): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 11 (E): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 12 (F): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 13 (G): \_\_\_\_\_

Line 14 (G): \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE SONNET ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

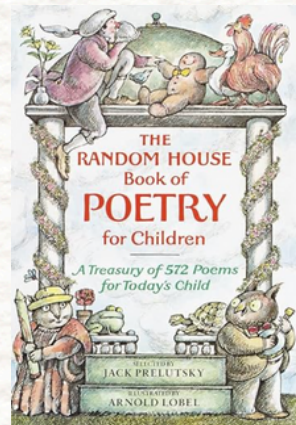
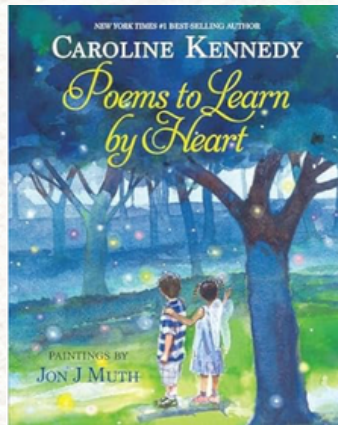
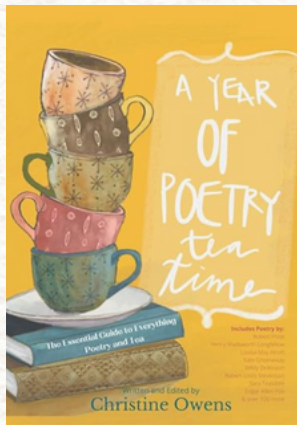




# Recommendations

You do not need any particular books on hand to have a poetry tea party! However, if you do have some extra funds in your budget and some extra space on your book shelves, I highly recommend having these items in your home.

- **A Year of Poetry Tea Time: The Essential Guide to Everything Poetry and Tea** by Christine Lynn Owens
- **Poems to Learn by Heart** by Caroline Kennedy
- **The Random House Book of Poetry for Children** by Jack Prelutsky



# Tea Party Hacks

You can turn any lunch or backyard picnic into a tea party!

- Cut the crust off of any ordinary sandwich and slice it into triangles or rectangles.
- Use a cookie cutter to turn sliced fruit into fancy shapes.
- Coat grapes or blueberries with sugar or dip strawberries or bananas into melted chocolate.
- Pour any of your favorite drinks (lemonade, chocolate milk, iced tea, apple cider, etc) into tea cups.
- Add classical music in the background, a table cloth, and a lighted candle to elevate your lunch time.



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