

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





Japanese Tea

March

*"Look deep into nature,
and then you will understand everything better"*
~Albert Einstein

Let's create a place of peace. This month's theme celebrates tranquility, harmony, and respect: Japanese Tea Time. The traditional Japanese tea ceremony is known as "chanoyu." Light a candle, turn on background music, sit on the floor around your coffee table, and enjoy a cup of tea with family or friends. Enjoy nature. Read nature poems. Recite the Serenity Prayer. Create Haiku poems. For even more fun, learn how to perform a formal Japanese Tea Ceremony.

Poetry Book Recommendations

- **A Sunny Morning - Haiku Alphabet Book: Learn my ABC's through kids poetry** by Stefanis Michailidi
- **My First Book of Haiku Poems: a Picture, a Poem and a Dream; Classic Poems** by Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen
- **Haiku, Ew!: Celebrating the Disgusting Side of Nature** by Lynn Brunelle
- **Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons** Laura Purdie Salas
- **One Leaf Rides the Wind** by Celeste Mannis

Poetry Activity

Poetry Charades

Give each child a haiku to act out. Like the game of charades, no words can be used. Give each player a sheet of paper. Haikus are 3-lined poems. As each player acts out a line of the poem, the other players write down their guesses. To end the round, the player acting, reads his Haiku aloud. The player (s) whose guesses were closest to the 3 lines in the haiku, get to go next.

Whispering Wind (Haiku)

Breezes through the trees,
Leaves flutter and swirl around,
Secrets in the air.

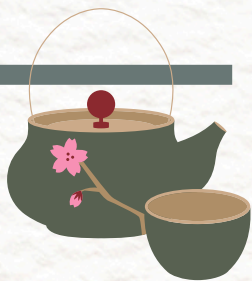
Charade (Possible Actions for Each Line)

Acts like a wind or stands tall like a tree.
Twirl around
Pretend to tell a secret.



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Japanese Tea

March

Fruit Sando

Serve this traditional Japanese fruit sandwich at your tea. Serve it with traditional Matcha Tea.

INGREDIENTS:

- strawberries
- kiwi
- navel oranges
- shokupan (Japanese milk bread) slices – fluffy white sandwich bread that's the thickness of a square loaf cut into 8 slices
- heavy (whipping) cream
- sugar

DIRECTIONS:

Whisk together the cream, sugar and vanilla until almost stiff peaks form. Spread on bread. Add fruit slices. Assemble and cut off the crusts. Then slice the sandwich in half with a clean knife. Serve immediately.



Matcha Tea

DIRECTIONS

- 1/4 teaspoon matcha
- 2 ounces hot water
- 6 ounces of additional hot water or steamed milk of choice
- sweetener (honey, syrup, etc)

Mix together and serve.



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Japanese Tea

March

Compose Original Haikus

Haikus are 3-Line non rhyming poems about nature. Compose and illustrate original haiku poems. During your tea party, read famous haiku poems and recite a few original ones.

Haiku Outline

3 Line Poem

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables

“The Old Pond”

by Basho

Furuike ya

kawazu tobikomu

mizu no oto

“The Old Pond”

Translation

An old silent pond...

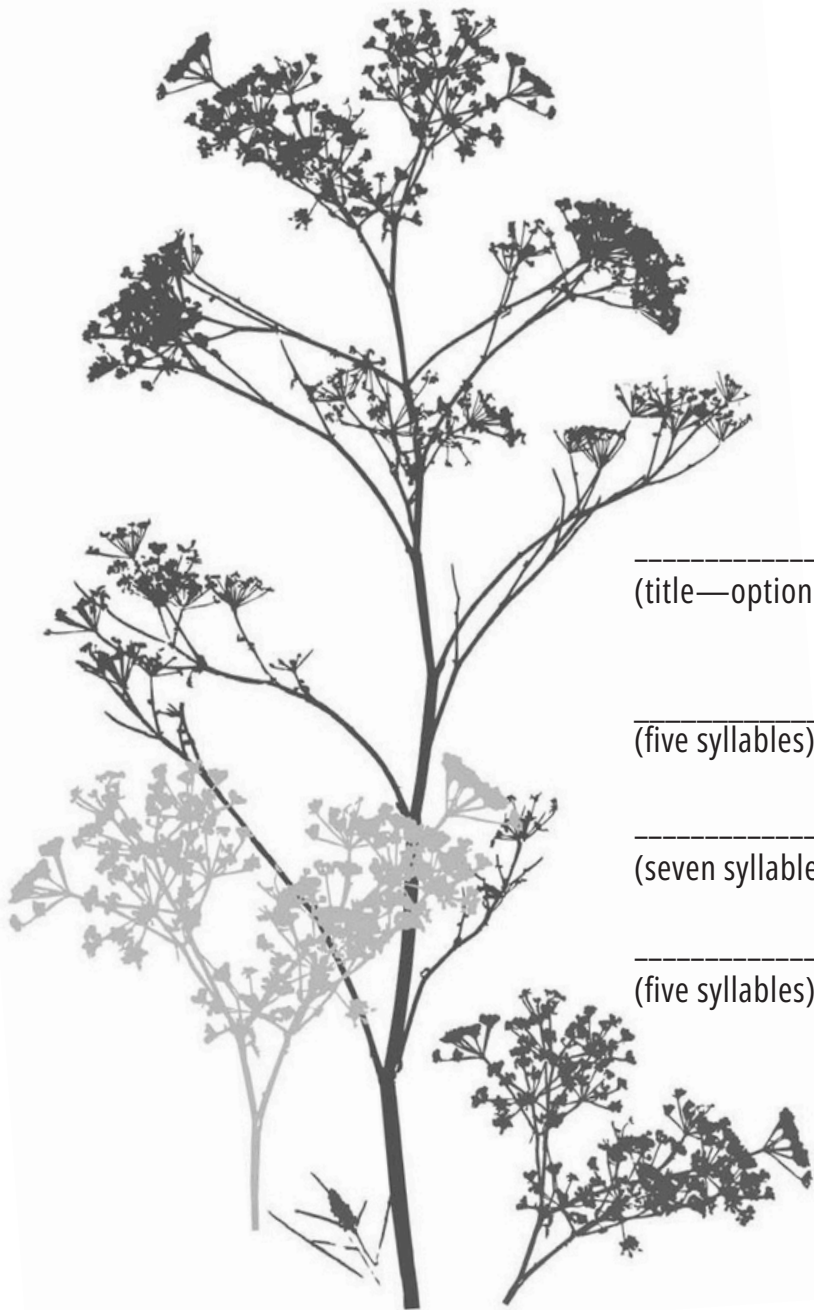
A frog jumps into the pond,

A Splash! Silence again. Splash!

Silence again.



HAIKU



(title—optional)

(five syllables)

(seven syllables)

(five syllables)

Poetry Charades

Print and cut out. Give one Haiku to each player.

Gentle Spring Rain

Soft drops on the ground,
Flowers dance with joy and light,
Nature's lullaby.

Whispering Wind

Breezes through the trees,
Leaves flutter and swirl around,
Secrets in the air.

Busy Little Bees

Bees buzz in the sun,
Flowers bloom and share their sweets,
Sweetness all around.

Snowflakes Falling

Soft snowflakes drift down,
Blanketing the world in white,
Winter's quiet hug.

Bright Summer Sun

Sun shines on the pond,
Frogs leap, and dragonflies dart,
A warm, happy day.

Autumn Leaves

Leaves of red and gold,
Twirling down to meet the ground,
Nature's bright farewell.

Moonlit Night

The moon's silver glow,
Stars twinkle in the dark sky,
Night whispers softly.

Butterfly Dance

Bright wings in the sun,
Fluttering from flower to
Flower, oh so light.

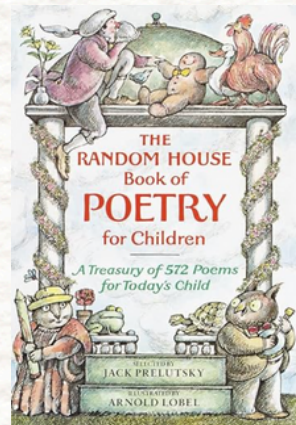
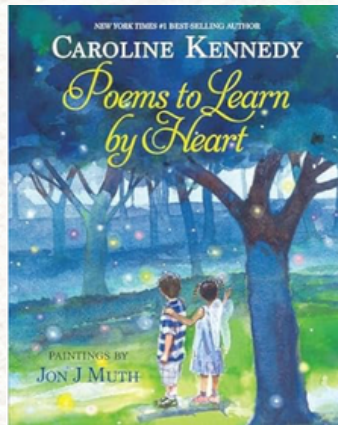
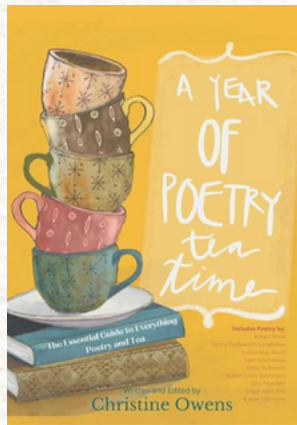




Recommendations

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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