

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



*"And cradled there in the scented hay,
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,
The little child in the manger lay,
The child, that would be king one day
Of a kingdom not human, but divine."
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

For unto us a child is born! A son is given! This month's theme celebrates the birth of our Savior: Christmas Tea Time. Celebrate the sights, sounds, and smells of December. Count your blessings. Give praise to our Savior. Read Christmas poems. Recite Nativity poems. Create holiday poems.

Poetry Book Recommendations

- **Favorite Poems for Christmas: A Child's Collection** by Bushel and Peck Books
- **100 Best Christmas Poems for Children** by Roger MacGough
- **Christmas Poems (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets Series)** by John Hollander
- **The Night Before Christmas** by Clement Moore
- **The Friendly Beasts: an old English Christmas Carol** by Tomie dePaola

Christmas Crackers Poetry Activity

1. Compose an original Christmas poem or copy a favorite one.
2. Make a homemade "cracker" with left over wrapping paper, ribbon, and paper towel roll. Insert the poem along with other treats.

Sing Christmas Carols

Start each day learning and singing a new Christmas Carol. The lyrics are poems.

Write Christmas cards this year.

Make them extra special by including a poem!





Christmas Tea

December

Cinnamon Toast

This simple sweet treat uses the spices of the season.

INGREDIENTS:

- slices white bread
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Toast bread slices in a toaster to desired darkness.
2. Spread butter or margarine onto one side of each slice.
3. Stir together sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl.
4. Sprinkle cinnamon-sugar mixture generously over hot, buttered toast.
5. Using Christmas cookie cutters, cut the toast into festive Christmas shapes.

Christmas Present Tea Sandwiches

Turn your favorite sandwich into an edible present.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Using any ingredients you want, create your child's favorite sandwich.
2. Cut the crust off and then cut into long rectangles.
3. Using fresh chives (or curly ribbon), wrap the sandwich. If you can, tie it in a bow.



Compose Sensory Poems & Reindeer Rhymes

Write a sensory poem that captures the essence of Christmas using all 5 senses. Pick a reindeer name from a Santa hat. Using one of the rhyming patterns, write a funny poem about your chosen reindeer.



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REINDEER RHYMES



**A rhyme scheme is the pattern of sounds that repeats at the end of a line.
Randomly choose one of Santa's Reindeer. Write 5 different rhyming poems
about the reindeer. Use the rhyme schemes below.**

AABB

The first two lines rhyme.
The last two lines rhyme.

ABAB

1st and 3rd line rhyme.
2nd and 4th line rhyme.

ABBA

1st and last line rhyme.
2nd and 3rd line rhyme.

ABCB

Only the 2nd and 4th
lines rhyme

AA BB CC

1st Couplet rhymes
2nd Couplet rhymes
3rd Couplet rhymes



Sensory Poem



Brainstorm things you see during the Christmas season. A few suggestions are pine cones, sugar cookies, sparkly presents, or poinsettias. Pick one. Use the template to create a Sensory Poem about it.

_____ is _____.
(Christmas Object) (color)

It sounds like _____.

It tastes like _____.

It smells like _____.

_____ feels like _____.

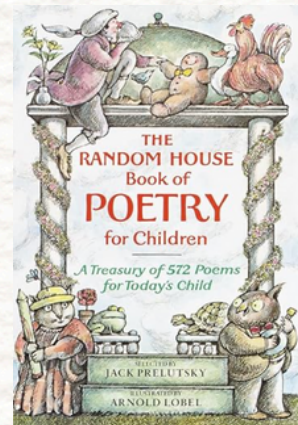
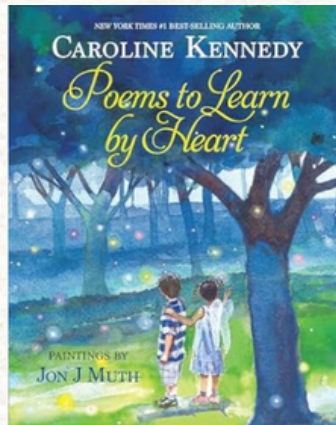
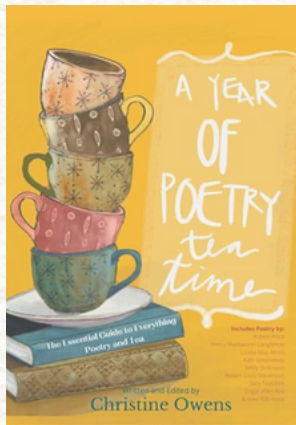




Recommendations

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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