

# 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**





*"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy."*  
~William Blake

Winter is a time to enjoy the pleasures of solitude, to dream and contemplate. It is a time to replenish and let roots dig deep. This month's theme celebrates the season of snow & hibernation: Winter Tea Time. Celebrate the cold. Play in the snow. Be still. Read winter poems. Recite snowy poems. Create hibernation poems.

## Poetry Book Recommendations

- **The Illustrated Robert Frost: 15 Winter Poems for Children** by Frost and Jelinek
- **A Poem for Every Winter Day (A Poem for Every Day and Night of the Year)** by Allie Esiri
- **Snow, Snow: Winter Poems for Children** by Jane Yolen
- **Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold** by Joyce Sidman

## Poetry Activity

### Play Poetry Bingo

Learn about literary devices used in poetry and about famous poets by playing a few rounds of Poetry Bingo.

1. Print the Bingo Cards and the Bingo Caller Sheet.
2. Collect tokens such as beans or pennies.
3. Call out the term. If the player has the definition or an example on his/her Bingo card, a token is placed on the space.
4. The player with five in row (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) wins.







Winter Tea

December

## Crescent Roll Sandwiches

Put a spin on grilled cheese and soup. These toasty treats will warm up your cold winter days.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tube crescent roll dough
- 8 slices cheddar cheese
- 8+ slices of deli meat
- 3 tbsp butter (melted)
- garlic powder
- Parsley (optional)



### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees and line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Roll out the crescent dough pieces.
3. Top each one with 1 slice of deli meat (or 2 if they're really thin) and 1 slice of cheese.
4. Roll them up starting at the widest end and place them on the baking sheet.
5. Mix together the melted butter, garlic powder and parsley. Use a brush to spread the mixture on top of the rolls.
6. Bake for approximately 10-15 minutes or until the dough turns golden brown and is cooked through.
7. Allow them to rest for a few minutes before digging in. Enjoy!

**\*\*VARIATION:** Make homemade grilled cheese sandwiches. Cut the crust off and slice into triangles. Add a bowl of hot tomato bisque or your favorite soup.

## Compose Original Cinquain

A cinquain is a five-line poem that describes a person, place, or thing. It usually uses nouns, adjectives, and participles (verbs ending in -ing).



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# CINQUAIN PATTERN



TOPIC OR TITLE:

1 WORD TITLE

NOUN - Subject of  
the poem

2 ADJECTIVES

Describe the topic  
of the poem

3 -ING VERB

Participles that describe  
what the poem

2 ADJECTIVES

2 different describing  
words

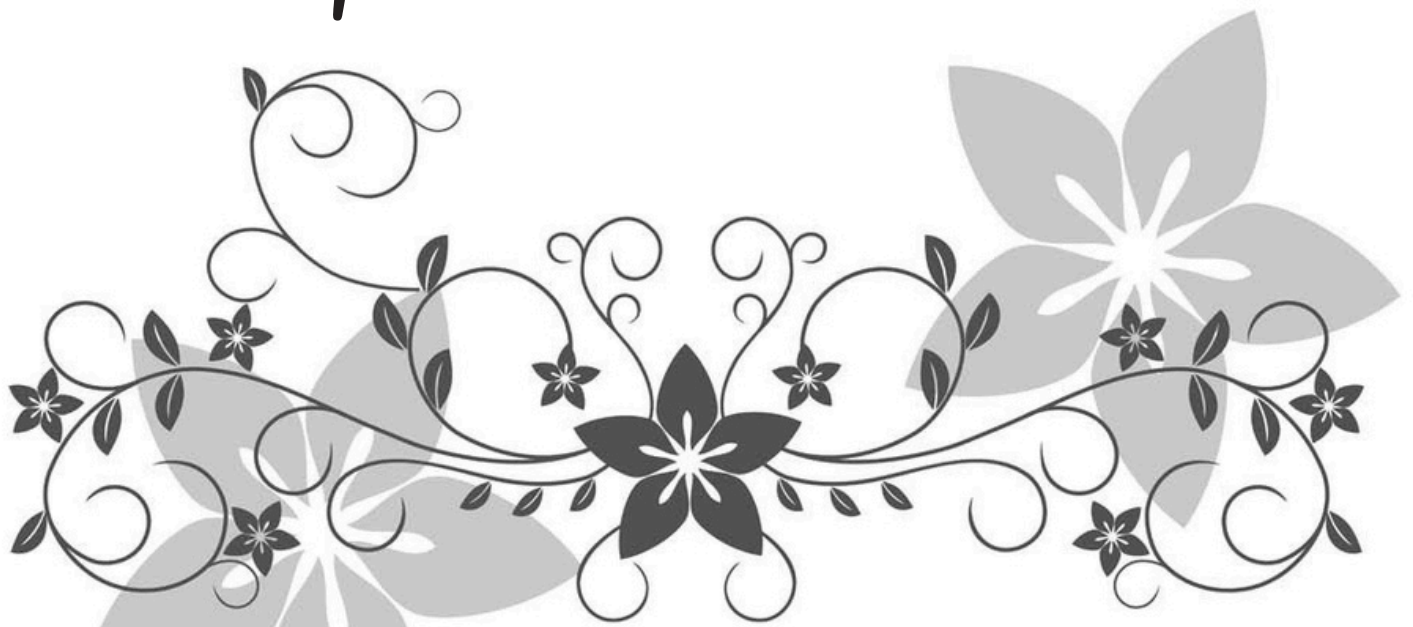
1 SYNONYM

Another Noun that tells  
what the poem is about.





# Cinquain



\_\_\_\_\_

(one-word title)

\_\_\_\_\_

(two adjectives)

\_\_\_\_\_

(three -ing words)

\_\_\_\_\_

(four-word phrase that expresses feeling)

\_\_\_\_\_

(another name for title word)



# POETRY BINGO

as busy  
as a bee

Words whose  
sounds  
suggest their  
meanings

roses are red  
violets are blue

sally  
sells  
seashells

5  
7  
5

The voice  
of the  
poem

Repeating  
sounds at  
end of  
words

The beat  
of a  
poem

A poem  
without set  
rhyme or  
rhythm

A group of  
lines in a  
poem

The pencil  
screeched  
across the  
paper.

I ate a  
million  
french  
fries

FREE SPACE

The author  
of the  
poem

A poem  
that tells a  
story

Writing  
that uses  
the five  
senses

The lesson  
or the  
moral of a  
poem

A poem that  
uses words  
to form  
pictures

I am a rock,  
standing  
tall.

It's raining  
cats and  
dogs.

A poem  
that shows  
emotion

A narrative  
poem that is  
sung

heart  
=  
love

Row,  
row,  
row  
your boat

The overall  
feeling of a  
poem



# POETRY BINGO

happy

Row,  
row,  
row  
your boat

Dr. Seuss

She kicked  
the  
bucket.

oink

We rode the train,  
We flew the plane

fast as a  
bunny

Comparison  
does not use  
like or as

Sally  
sells  
seashells

group of  
lines in a  
poem

exaggeration

sound

FREE SPACE

A poem  
that tells a  
story

A poem  
that shows  
emotion

A narrative  
poem that  
is sung

Lion =  
courage

"Don't judge  
a book by its  
cover."

A poem that  
uses words  
to form  
pictures

The leaves  
danced in  
the street.

A poem  
without set  
rhymes or  
rhythm

The beat of  
a poem

Free,  
bee

5  
7  
5

The voice  
of a poem



# POETRY BINGO

A narrative poem that is sung

Repeating words in a poem

Lion = courage

It's raining cats and dogs.

Taste

A poem that shows emotion

Sad

The moral or a lesson of the poem

A poem that uses words to form pictures

A poem that tells a story

Shel Silverstein

I was starving!

FREE SPACE

A poem without set rhyme or rhythm

The voice of the poem

A group of lines in a poem

The leaves danced in the street.

Known, grown

A pair of rhymed lines

Poetry is pretty popular

The beat of a poem

5  
7  
5

Moo

Comparison does not use like or as

Comparison using like or as



# POETRY BINGO

Boom

5  
7  
5

roses are red  
violets are blue

Giving human  
qualities to an  
inanimate  
object

A poem that  
uses words  
to form  
pictures

You're a  
firework.

Look,  
listen,  
and  
learn!

A poem  
without set  
rhyme or  
rhythm

I was  
starving!

Words do  
not have  
their literal  
meaning

Comparison  
using like or  
as

The voice  
of a poem

FREE SPACE

The author  
of the  
poem

A narrative  
poem that  
is sung

A group of  
lines in a  
poem

Dove  
=  
peace

Sang,  
rang

A poem  
that tells a  
story

Repeating  
words in a  
poem

A poem  
that shows  
emotion

The moral  
or lesson of  
a poem

The beat  
of a poem

Sight

Scary

# POETRY BINGO

Repetition of  
consonant  
sounds at the  
beginning of  
words

Roses are red.  
Violets are blue.

Happy

Dr.  
Seuss

The voice  
of the  
poem

Pow

Comparison  
does not  
use like or  
as

Exaggeration

A group of  
lines in a  
poem

The pencil  
screamed  
across the  
paper.

A poem  
without set  
rhyme or  
rhythm

The beat  
of a poem

FREE SPACE

Free,  
bee

5  
7  
5

Words that  
do not have  
their literal  
meaning

A poem  
that tells a  
story

Smell

"Life has its  
ups and  
downs."

A poem that  
uses words to  
form pictures

Something that  
represents a  
thing beyond  
itself.

a narrative  
poem that is  
sung

Row,  
row,  
row  
your boat

A poem that  
shows  
emotion

quick like  
a cheetah



# POETRY BINGO CALL SHEET

term	definition	examples
Simile	Comparison using like or as	as busy as a bee/quick like a cheetah/fast as a bunny
Metaphor	Comparison does not use like or as	I am a rock, standing tall. You're a firework.
Onomatopoeia	Words whose sounds suggest their meanings	Oink/Boom/Pow/Moo
Couplet	A pair of rhymed lines	Roses are red, Violets are blue We rode the train, We flew the plane
Alliteration	Repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words	Sally sells seashells Poetry is pretty popular Look, listen, and learn!
Haiku	A poem with three lines of 5/7/5 syllables	5 7 5
Speaker	The voice of the poem	-
Rhyme	Repeating sounds at the end of words	Cat, hat/Known, grown Free, bee/Sang, rang
Rhythm	The beat of a poem	-
Free verse	A poem without set rhyme or rhythm	-
Stanza	A group of lines in a poem	-
Personification	Giving human qualities to an inanimate object	The pencil screeched across the paper. The leaves danced in the street.

# POETRY BINGO CALL SHEET

term	definition	examples
Hyperbole	Exaggeration	I ate a million French fries. I was starving!
Poet	The author of the poem	Shel Silverstein Dr. Seuss
Narrative	A poem that tells a story	-
Imagery	Writing that uses the five senses	Smell/Sound/Taste/Sight/Touch
Theme	The moral or lesson of the poem	"Don't judge a book by its cover." "Life has its ups and downs."
Concrete poem	A poem that uses words to form pictures	-
Symbolism	Something that represents a thing beyond itself	Heart = love/ Lion = courage/Dove = peace
Idiom	Words do not have their literal meaning	It's raining cats and dogs. She kicked the bucket.
Lyric	A poem that shows emotion	-
Ballad	A narrative poem that is sung	-
Repetition	Repeating words in a poem	Row, row, row your boat
Mood	The overall feeling of a poem	Mysterious, Sad, Scary, Happy

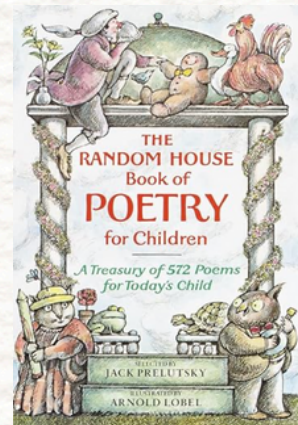
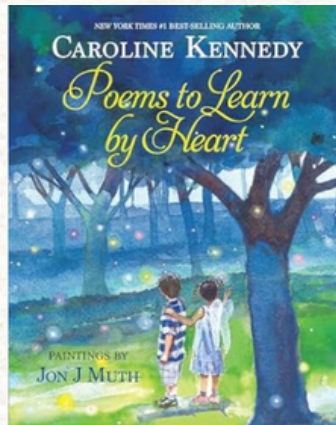
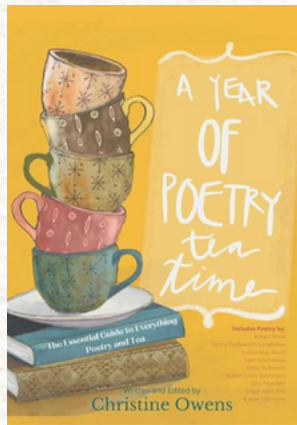




# Recommendations

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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