

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





*"All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all."*

~ Cecil Frances Alexander

Is your child an animal lover? If so, then he or she will love this month's theme: Animal Tea Time. Celebrate the wild, beautiful, and strange creatures of the air, land, and sea. Bring your favorite furry friend to tea or your favorite stuffed animal. Read animal poems. Recite animal poems. Create animal poems.

Poetry Book Recommendations

- **The Llama Who Had No Pajama: 100 Favorite Poems** by Mary Ann Hoberman
- **Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright!: An Animal Poem for Each Day of the Year** by Fiona Waters
- **Bless Our Pets: Poems of Gratitude for Our Animal Friends** by Lee Bennett Hopkins
- **National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!** by J. Patrick Lewis
- **Poetry for Kids: Emily Dickinson** by Emily Dickinson & Susan Snively
- **The Illustrated Emily Dickinson: 25 Essential Poems (The Illustrated Poets Collection, 1)** by Ryan G. Van Cleave

Poetry Activity

Play Mix Up & Mash Up Poetry

1. Make a copy of 3 or 4 different poems about animals.
2. Then cut out each line or verse from each poem.
3. Mix up the lines and rearrange the strips into new poems.
4. Read the new poems aloud.

Play Animal Charades

1. On separate index cards, write the names of different animals.
2. Take turns picking a card and acting out the animal.





Ants on a Log

Introduce your children to this old fashioned, kid-friendly, favorite treat.

INGREDIENTS:

- stalks of celery
- Jar of Peanut Butter (or almond butter)
- Raisins (or cranberries)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Spread peanut butter inside the crevice of each celery stalk.
2. Line up raisins in the peanut butter so it looks like ants marching in a line.
3. Cut each stalk in half and arrange on a plate.

For added fun, add some animal crackers to each "log."



Compose Original Couplets

A couplet is a two line rhyming poem usually with the same number of beats or the same length. A quatrain is a four-line stanza (or a pair of couplets).

A Roses are red, violets are blue (8 syllables)
A Sugar is sweet, and so are you. (8 syllables)

A I'm nobody! Who are you?
A Are you nobody too?
B Then there's a pair of us! – don't tell!
B Let's be friends- so all is well.



COUPLET PATTERN

A Couplet is a two line poem with each line ending with a rhyming word.

TOPIC: DOGS

1ST LINE

Line ending with "day"

2ND LINE

Line ending with "say"

CREATE YOUR OWN

TOPIC OR TITLE:

1ST LINE

2ND LINE

Line ends with a word that
rhymes with the last word in
1st line.



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Couplets



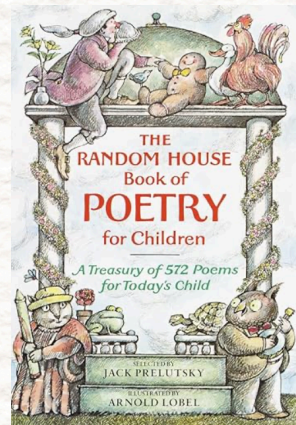
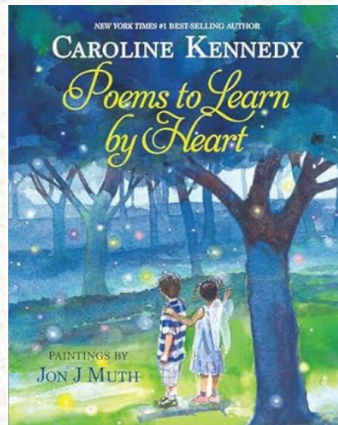
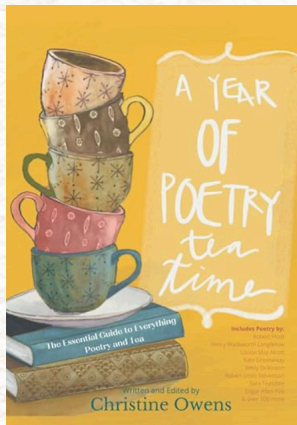
Handwriting practice lines for couplets. The page contains 10 sets of horizontal lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



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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