

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





*"The Mad Hatter asked, 'Why is a raven like a writing desk?'
When Alice gives up trying to figure out why, the Hatter admits 'I
haven't the slightest idea!'"*
~Alice in Wonderland

Don't be late for this important date. It is time for a Alice in Wonderland Tea party. This month's theme celebrates spring and new life: Spring Garden Tea Time. Read aloud Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll poems, or a book of riddles by Lewis Carroll. Pick some fresh flowers. Steep some herbal tea. Make traditional tea sandwiches. Read poems about spring time. Recite the Jabberwocky without laughing. Create free verse poems.

Poetry Book Recommendations

- **Poetry for Young People: Lewis Carroll** by Edward Mendelson
- **The Jabberwocky** by Lewis Carroll & Red Barn Kitchen Designs(Illustrator)
- **Alice's Puzzles Through the Looking Glass: A Frabjous Puzzle Challenge Inspired by Lewis Carroll's Classic Fantasy** by Jason Ward
- **Word Plexer Puzzle: Rebus Puzzles Word or Phrase Fun and Challenge Game** by Kenneth L. Stevenson
- **The Illustrated Emily Dickinson: 15 Spring Poems for Children - Spring Poetry for Kids** by Emily Dickinson & KeriAnne N. Jelinek (Illustrator)

Poetry Activity

Black Out Poetry

Blackout poetry is a creative poetry form where a poet takes an existing text and redacts (or blacks out) most of the words, leaving a selection of words that form a new poem. It transforms original text into something fresh and visually striking.

1. Pick any poem. Read the text.
2. Identify a variety of impactful words then blackout all of the other words (or unused words)
3. Read the selected words aloud or the new poem. Title your new poem.





Cucumber Sandwiches

A traditional English tea consists of Cucumber Mint Sandwiches. Alice and the Mad Hatter would approve of these tea treats.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cucumber- peeled and thinly sliced
- fresh mint- finely chopped
- fresh dill-finely chopped
- soft butter
- white bread
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened

DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix the fresh mint with softened cream cheese. Mix fresh chives with butter.
2. Spread butter mixture on one piece of bread and cover with a few slices of cucumbers.
3. Then spread the cream cheese mixture on the other piece of bread and add on top.
4. Remove the crust and cut into diagonals.



Honey Lavender Sun Tea

DIRECTIONS

- Securely place lavender buds into a cheesecloth or tea infuser for loose teas.
- Place 1 cup of honey, 8 earl grey tea bags, lavender tea buds, and 12 cups of water in a gallon jar and fill it with water.
- Loosely put a cover or cap on the jar and place the jar in direct sunshine.
- Steep tea for 3 to 4 hours (do not exceed 4 hours)
- Serve with hot (or iced) with an extra drizzle of honey and a sprig of fresh lavender for garnish.





Strawberry Chicken Salad Tea Sandwiches

These are easy to make, delicious, and bright with the brilliant colors of spring.

Chicken Salad

- 12 slices firm white bread
- 2 ½ cups chopped cooked chicken
- 1 cup finely chopped fresh strawberries
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 2 green onions

Creamy Lemon Dressing

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 - 2 tablespoons fresh snipped chives
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- pinch of ground black pepper.

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a small bowl, make the Creamy Lemon Dressing. Combine all of the ingredients and whisk until smooth. Cover and refrigerate until ready to make the tea sandwiches.
2. In a large bowl, combine the chicken, strawberries, celery, and green onions. Add the Creamy Lemon Dressing and stir to blend.
3. Butter 2 slices of bread. Place a portion of chicken salad on 1 slice and spread evenly. Top with the second slice and gently press into the salad a bit.
4. Remove crusts and cut into rectangles.
5. Tie fresh chive around the middle of each finger sandwich.





Compose Free Verse Poems

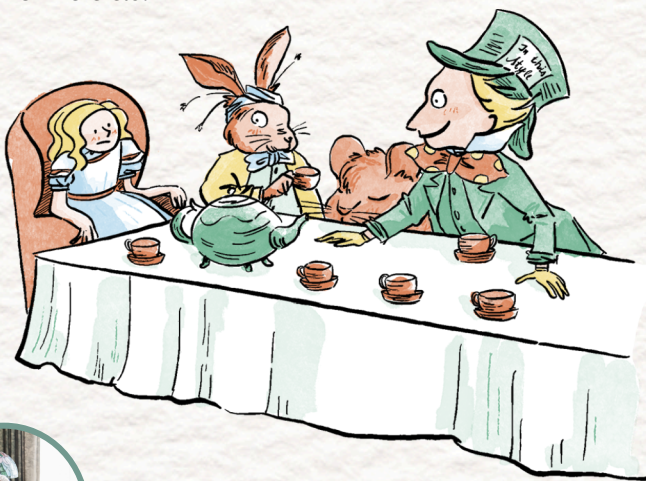
What is free verse poetry? Have you ever wanted to write a poem but felt intimidated by all the rules, rhyming, and structure? Then, free verse poetry is for you! This form is a type of poetry where the poet is free to write whatever and however, they want. But don't mistake this as an easy way to write poetry. This form of poetry focuses on rhythm, word choice, and imagery instead of rhyming schemes and formal structure.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Pick a topic or subject to write about.
2. Brainstorm ideas about the topic.
Write a list of twenty ideas, phrases, or words that come to mind when you think of your subject. Try to write quickly with as few pauses as possible.
3. For fun, use some of the literary devices you used in past poems (alliteration, similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, etc.)
4. Write about your topic using your list of ideas.

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS:

1. Nature Observations: Describe a specific scene in nature—like a sunset, a storm, or a quiet forest—and explore the emotions it evokes.
2. Personal Memories: Reflect on a vivid memory, such as an accomplishment or funny moment and share the feelings associated with it.
3. Everyday Life: Write about a mundane activity (like making your bed or feeding the dog).
4. Objects and Places: Choose an everyday object or a significant place and explore its symbolism and personal significance.

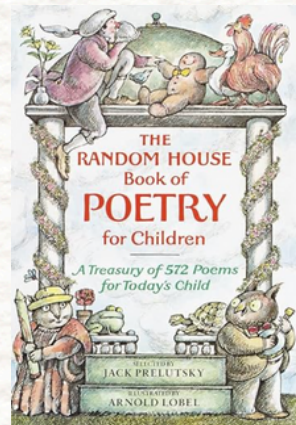
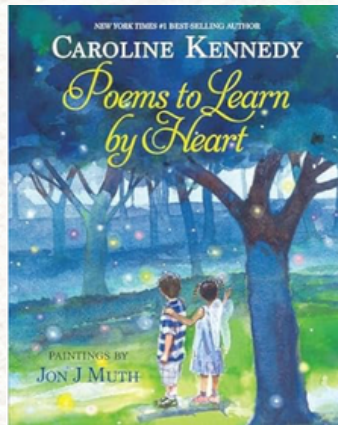
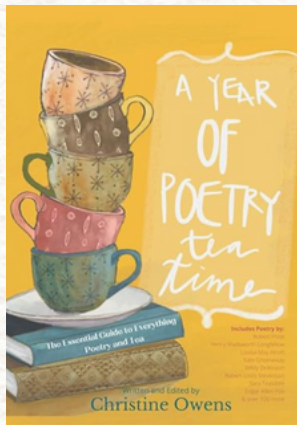




Recommendations

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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