

Poetry Prompt Journal



*30 Days Of Poetry
Prompts*

30 Day Poetry Prompt Journal

2019 Edition

Local Gems Press

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Day 2: Petrarchan Sonnet

Italian Sonnets, also known as Petrarchan Sonnets after the Italian poet Petrarch feature one octave or two quatrains followed by a sestet and is traditionally written in Iambic Pentameter. The octave forms a proposition or presents a problem or question which is then solved in the following sestet. Generally, the ninth line of the poem contains a volta which leads to the resolution of the problem presented in the previous eight lines.

The Italian sonnet follows a rhyme scheme of

A-
B-
B-
A-
A-
B-
B-
A
C-
D-

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E-

C-

D-

E

Day 3: Letter to Future Self

Write a poem that takes the form of a letter to yourself 10, 20, or even 30 years in the future.

Day 4: Harvest

When we plant seeds, the hope is that we will one day see the fruits of our labor. Write a poem about a harvest, whether a literal harvest of crops, or a metaphorical harvest of results for hard work.

Day 5: Golden Ticket

It might not get us into a chocolate factory, but we have all been given life's golden ticket-the opportunity to make something happen. Write a poem about your golden ticket.

Day 6: Gratitude

The key to true happiness is gratitude. Write a poem about something you are grateful for.

Day 7: Re-Write

Take a poem written by someone else, a friend, a famous poet, etc. Re-write the poem using your own style and voice.

Day 8: Response

Write a poem that is a direct response or sequel to another poem. It can be a poem you have written, or a poem by someone else.

Day 9: Nostalgia

We are all nostalgic for something, no matter how old or young we are. Write a poem about something you are nostalgic for.

Day 10: Alliteration Poem

Write a poem that makes heavy use of alliteration.

“Peter piper picked a patch of perfect poems proliferating proper punctuation!”

Day 11: Prophecy Poem

Some would say the only difference between a prediction and a prophecy is that prophecies come true. Others would say the only difference is that a prediction is spoken, a prophecy is written down. Write a poem that prophesizes something.

Day 12: Limerick

A Limerick is a 5 line poem typically of comedic value with a rhyme scheme as follows:

A
A
B
B
A

-

Day 13: Dodoitsu

The Dodoitsu is a Japanese poetry form. Often about love or work, and usually comical, Dodoitsu poems consist of four lines with the structure

7
7
7
5

Day 14: Ode to the Mundane

Odes have been written about extraordinary people or things. Write a poem about an ordinary object, as if it were extraordinary.

Day 15: Today in History

Look up something famous that happened on this day in history. Write a poem about that famous event or incident.

Day 16: Childhood Adventure

Write a poem about a childhood adventure that you had, or wish you had.

Day 17: Question Poem

Write a poem made up entirely of questions.

Day 18: Eavesdropper

Sometimes we just can't help but overhear other people talking. Write a poem about a conversation you overheard.

Day 19: Repetition

Write a poem that consists of the same 3 lines over in different repetitious patterns. Something similar to the following pattern:

A
A
B
A
B
B
C
A
C

Day 20: 20 Word Poem

Write a poem that is exactly 20 words long.

Day 21: Addiction

Addiction can come in many forms. Write a poem about an addiction. Is it a serious vice, or a harmless obsession?

Day 22: Cento

A cento or "patchwork" poem is a poem comprised of lines from other poems. Traditionally the lines are from poems written by other poets although sometimes they are written using lines from the poet's other poems. Write a cento.

Day 23: Lost

Write a poem about something that was lost.

Day 24: Found

Write a poem about something that was found.

Day 25: Fibonacci Poem

Write a Fibonacci or "Fib" Poem.

A Fibonacci poem is a newer poetic form that bases itself off of the mathematical Fibonacci sequence where each number equals the previous two numbers before it. In poetry, the sequence translates to syllable count.

The typical fib is a six line, 20 syllable poem with a syllable count by line of 1/1/2/3/5/8 - with as many syllables per line as the line's corresponding place in the Fibonacci sequence. However, some Fibonacci poets try to challenge themselves to make the poems go longer than 6 lines.

Day 26: Compliment

Write a poem that says nothing but good things about something or someone.

Day 27: Obsolete Item

Sometimes we get attached to things that the rest of society has moved beyond--a VHS player, a Nintendo, etc. Write a poem about something you love that is obsolete.

Day 28: Fake Biography

Write a biography poem about yourself that is completely made up.

Day 29: Narrative Poem

Write a poem that tells a story of some kind; funny, happy, sad, embarrassing, or a combination.

Day 30: Death Poem

The Japanese had a long tradition of saying their final words as a poem. They were usually short, 3-5 lines. Sometimes serious, sometimes funny. Write your own version of a death poem.

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Local Gems Poetry Press is a small Long Island based poetry press dedicated to spreading poetry through performance and the written word. Local Gems believes that poetry is the voice of the people, and as the sister organization of the Bards Initiative, believes that poetry can be used to make a difference.

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