30 Days of Poetry

Poetry Ideas to Keep You Inspired

by

Creative Writing Now

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Ideas Whenever You Need Them

The prompts and ideas in this book are intentionally open-ended. Each prompt can be approached in many different ways. Whether you are a traditional poet or an experimental one; whether your poetry is lyrical, humorous, or dark; you can make these prompts work for you.

The open-ended design of these prompts also means that you can return to the same prompt again and again, producing a different poem each time.

Two ways of using this book:

1) Challenge yourself to write a poem a day for a month, starting with Day 1 and working your way through to the end.

   Or…

2) Dip into the book whenever you need poem ideas and try the prompts that catch your imagination.

Ready to write some poems?
Day 1

Write a poem about one or all of the four seasons. (Some ideas for brainstorming: What does the season look, feel, smell like? What memories do you associate with that season?).

Day 2

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 3

Write a poem using three of the following words: expensive, lampshade, bruise, convincing.
Day 4

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 5

Write a poem about something that happened to someone you know. Write about it as if it had happened to you.

Day 6

Write a poem about your shadow. (Some ideas for brainstorming: How does it change when you move? What does it look like in different kinds of light, in different situations? What would happen if you lost it? Does it have a secret life?)
Day 7

Write a poem using all of the following words: smooth, soothe, work, dark.

Day 8

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 9

Write a poem based on a dream you had. Try to reproduce the sensations of the dream.
Day 10

An acrostic poem is one where the first letters of the lines spell out a word or words if you read them vertically. For example, here is an acrostic poem by Edgar Allan Poe. You can see that if you read the first letters of the lines from top to bottom, they spell out the name "Elizabeth."

Elizabeth it is in vain you say
"Love not" — thou sayest it in so sweet a way:
In vain those words from thee or L. E. L.
Zantippe's talents had enforced so well:
Ah! if that language from thy heart arise,
Breathe it less gently forth — and veil thine eyes.
Endymion, recollect, when Luna tried
To cure his love — was cured of all beside —
His folly — pride — and passion — for he died.

Write an acrostic poem using your own name.

Day 11

Write a poem from the perspective of a character in a fairy tale.
Day 12

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 13

Write a poem inspired by one of these photo prompts.
Day 14

Write a poem using words or phrases from an instruction manual or a recipe..

Day 15

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 16

Write a poem using all of the following words: moth, angle, cloth, tangle.
Day 17

Listen to a piece of music and write about the images that it brings into your mind.

Day 18

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 19

Write a poem that tells the story of a specific love affair or marriage.
Day 20

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 21

Write a poem inspired by one of these photo prompts.
Day 22

Write a poem using all of the following words: dim, hinge, dingy.

Day 22

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 23

Write a poem about the color red or another color. (Some ideas for brainstorming: How does the color make you feel? What things do you associate with that color?)
Day 24

Write a poem using all of the following words: exquisite, visit, glisten.

Day 25

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 26

Write a poem about a place that frightens you or a place where you feel happy. Try to recreate the feeling of the place.
Day 28

Write a poem about something or someone you lost.

Day 29

Choose one of these photo prompts. How does it make you feel? What ideas, memories, or stories come to you when you look at it? Write a poem based on what comes to mind.

Day 30

Write a poem using all of the following words: snake, honey, thaw.
Happy writing!

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