

# Be a Nature Poet

Poetry takes SO many shapes and forms! Here are some examples of a few types of poems to get you started creating your own nature poetry. Use these templates to create your poems and as you continue to practice, you may want to branch out to other types or create your own! Note: There can be many different ways to create the same type of poem.

**Here are some prompts to get you thinking:** *How does nature inspire you? What are your favorite things to see, hear, touch, or taste, when you are outdoors? Have you spent time investigating plants, animals, insects or rocks? What did you discover? How do you feel when you spend time outdoors? What do you wonder about?*

## Hello, Goodbye Poem

Write a poem about the seasons in the Columbia Basin by considering what you enjoy about one season and what you look forward to about the next season.

Hello Winter

Goodbye Autumn

Hello gray skies and white snow

Goodbye colorful leaves

Hello shortest day of the year

Goodbye apple orchards and pumpkin patches

Hello long, star-filled nights

Goodbye animals, off to migrate or hibernate

## Cinquain (version 1)

This is a five line poem that follows a specific word count:

1 noun/2 adjectives/3 –ing words/a phrase/a synonym or another noun related to the first noun.

Granite

Large, lonely

Sitting, waiting, watching

It is evidence of a powerful flood.

Erratic

## Cinquain (version 2)

This is a five line poem that follows a specific syllable count:

2 syllables/4 syllables/6 syllables/8 syllables/2 syllables

A rock

Never moving

Until I pick it up

Toss it into the river, then

A splash!

## I Am Poem

Pick something from nature that you enjoy and imagine being that thing. Spend some time describing that thing before telling the reader what the thing is in the last line.

I am a smooth and silent observer

I love the cold flow of water on my back

I want to see the world

I play with otters and salmon

I see floods and droughts

I am full of secret, ancient, stories

I am happy on my endless journey

I am anxious to see what comes next

I am excited about the cycles of nature

I am a river rock

## 5 Senses Poem

These poems are all about the 5 senses (sight, smell, hearing, touch, taste) and can be written and organized however you'd like.

### Nature Finds Me

Nature finds me,  
everywhere.  
When I retreat inside to hide from the world,  
angry at reality.  
I notice it. Sprouting.  
From the cracks in the sidewalks.  
I see it. Perched.  
Feathers fluffed on a light post.  
I feel it. Blasting my cheeks  
with fine, airborne sand  
as I wander to the mailbox.  
I feel it. Warm and constant.  
A burning heat on the backs of my legs,  
my feet cooling in the swirling river.  
I smell it.  
French fries, onions,  
and when I am really lucky,  
petrichor,  
the sweet smell of earth and plants  
after rain.  
I hear it. Deafening, flowing, hushed.  
A jumbled tumble of pebbles  
pulled by river currents,  
skipping through deep channels.  
I taste it. Sweet and bitter.  
Fruits of the floods,  
food grown in fertile, sun drenched soil,  
created from catastrophe.  
Yes, nature finds me.  
It stops me short, shouting.  
Look! Listen! Taste! Touch! Smell!  
I always welcome it.  
It pulls me urgently, blissfully,  
back to here and now.

## 5 Senses (Color) Poem

Write a poem about how you experience a color in nature through your five senses (sight, smell, hearing, touch, taste)

Gray looks like rain  
It sounds like pebbles skipping along the  
river's bottom  
The color gray smells like burning wood  
It tastes like smoke  
Gray feels like winter

## Collaborative Poem

Write this poem with a group! Each group member writes a line and then all the lines are organized into a group poem. The poem below was written by the students of the REACH Museum's Nature Journaling Class.

### Ice Age Floods

Impressive  
Dangerous  
A cold catastrophe waiting to happen  
Were things living under the ice?  
Glaciers floating like ice cubes in a water  
glass  
Cold  
Explosive floods  
Fast  
Tearing boulders from cliffs  
Dirty  
Carving the landscape  
Mammoths floating like bobbers  
Scars on the land  
Coulees, ripples, channels, potholes, erratics  
Sharp rocks

## Limerick

In its simplest form, limerick is five lines long with a set rhyme scheme of AABBA. Lines 1, 2, and 5 are often longer than 3 and 4. Line 5 often serves as a punch line, as limericks are often funny!

*With the past year we have had,  
Times were sometimes good and sometimes  
bad,  
We stayed home and stayed safe,  
We had reasons to chafe.  
It's no wonder we often felt sad.*

*When you're at home feeling mellow  
Just take a look out your window,  
Do you see trees?  
Do you see bees?  
You have front row seats to the show!*

## Haiku

This is a form of Japanese poetry that is three lines long and follows a specific syllable count of 5 syllables/7 syllables/5 syllables.

*Under star-filled skies  
Bats swoop, owls hoot. They are  
Heroes of the night.*

## Tanka

This is another form of Japanese poetry that is 5 lines long follows a specific syllable count of 5 syllables/7 syllables/5 syllables/7 syllables/7 syllables.

*I see signs of spring.  
Buds appearing on branches,  
Birds singing in trees,  
Earth is now stretching awake,  
After its long winter's sleep*

## Diamante

This is a seven lined poem which can be shaped like a diamond and has the following word count: 1/2/3/4/3/2/1. It progresses from one subject at the top and near the middle changes to describe a different subject at the end.

Squirrel  
Tail flicking  
Scurrying, gathering, chattering  
Lungs, whiskers sensing, gills  
Waiting, swimming, lurking  
Tail swishing  
Catfish

## SHARE YOUR POEMS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY!

Visit [www.arts.wa.gov/resources-for-teachers-students](http://www.arts.wa.gov/resources-for-teachers-students) for details and tips on spoken word poetry and recitation.

Also, check out <https://wapoetlaureate.org> to keep track of what Washington's current poet laureate is up to!

## INIWIRMO Poem

### (I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds Me Of)

Use the prompts “I Notice”, “I Wonder” and “It Reminds Me Of” to create a unique poem about something you observe in nature. This can be done anywhere you can observe nature – even while looking out a window!

*I notice an American Coot*

*Lying snug and still in the grass*

*In the middle of the park.*

*Eyes blinking, but*

*Unmoving.*

*Dark feathers reflecting the sunlight.*

*I wonder about this.*

*How did it get here?*

*Why choose this spot?*

*Because Coots, as you may know*

*Are water birds*

*With feet and legs made for swimming*

*Not strolling in a grassy park.*

*So why is it here?*

*It reminds me of a rabbit*

*Still, like a statue*

*In the sagebrush.*

*Is it hiding?*

*Then I notice two eagles*

*Perched in the trees above.*

*Smart Coot.*

## Letter Poem

Choose two things are connected in a strong way, such as a rock and the Columbia River, or a sagebrush and the sun, or a pocket mouse and the grass. Imagine you are one of those things, and you are writing a letter to the other thing. What would you say? Write a short poem that is a letter between them. Here’s an example:

*From the Rabbitbrush to the Blister Beetle*

*I don’t really mind so much*

*That you invite all your friends*

*To a big party in my branches.*

*I do mind a little*

*That you and your friends*

*Are munching on my flowers.*

*At least some of the pollen*

*That clings to your feet*

*Gets to the right place.*

*And if a cow tries to chew my leaves*

*They get a taste of you*

*And never try it again!*

**There are lots of other types of poems out there! Some other types of poems and poetry techniques that you can look up for inspiration include (but are certainly not limited to):**

Nonnet, Sonnet, Villanelle, Palindrome, Free Verse, Alliteration, Calligram, Couplet, Listing Poem, Elegy, Ballad, Narrative and Ode