

National Poetry Writing Month Prompts

prompts created and compiled by Christina Thatcher (@writetoempower)

April 1st: Read '[FaceTime](#)' by [Clint Smith](#). Write a poem which includes a telephone or another piece of technology.

April 2nd: Read '[The Cast](#)' by [Sharon Olds](#). Write a poem which includes a childhood injury, however mild or severe.

April 3rd: Read '[Fledgling](#)' by [Traci Brimhall](#). Write a poem about something 'fledgling'—this could be a new or vulnerable feeling, relationship, experience, idea, or concept.

April 4th: Read '[Tattoo](#)' by [Jacqueline Saphra](#). Write a piece about a tattoo—yours or someone else's, real or imagined.

April 5th: Read '[Relax](#)' by [Ellen Bass](#). Write a poem which includes the phrase 'Bad things are going to happen' or the word 'Relax'. If you choose the first option, be sure to write *after Ellen Bass* beneath the title before sharing or publishing this piece.

April 6th: Read '[Ritmo/Rhythm](#)' by [Margarita Engle](#). Write a poem about a project, collection or activity.

April 7th: Read '[How to Triumph Like a Girl](#)' by [Ada Limon](#). Write a poem which includes a triumph or victory, however small.

April 8th: Read '[As Far As I Know](#)' by [Roger McGough](#). Write a poem which includes a lie, omission or twisted truth.

April 9th: Read '[Monsoon Poem](#)' by [Tishani Doshi](#). Write a poem which includes or references extreme weather.

April 10th: Read '[Taking Out the Trash](#)' by [Kamilah Aisha Moon](#). Write a poem about an everyday task. This could be making the bed, brushing your teeth, brewing coffee, walking the dog, etc.

April 11th: Read '[The Woman Who Turned Down a Date with a Cherry Farmer](#)' by [Aimee Nezhukumatathil](#). Write a poem about a missed connection or a fruit of your choice.

April 12th: Read '[Eating the Avocado](#)' by [Carrie Fountain](#). Write a piece which includes the phrase 'I want to describe...'. Be sure to write *after Carrie Fountain* beneath the title before you share or publish this piece.

April 13th: Read '[To You](#)' by [Kenneth Koch](#). Write a love or anti-love poem which includes a murder.

April 14th: Read ['From Blossoms' by Li-Young Lee](#). Write an ode celebrating a person, place, thing or idea.

April 15th: Read ['Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota'](#) by James Wright. Write down one positive emotion word (i.e. joy, love, happiness, etc.) and one negative emotion word (i.e. sadness, regret, hopelessness, etc). Write a poem inspired by both words.

April 16th: Read ['In a Time of Peace' by Ilya Kaminsky](#). Write a poem which includes something you find 'peaceful'.

April 17th: Read ['Field Notes on Beginning' by Tyree Daye](#). Write a sequence poem which covers the span of one week—each section can represent a day, a family member, a revelation, an observed action, etc

April 18th: Read ['Here' by Kim Addonizio](#). First, spend one minute making a list of things that 'will help'. Then either choose your favorite (or whichever one speaks to you) and write a poem which includes this.

April 19th: Read ['For the dogs who barked at me on the sidewalks in Connecticut' by Hanif Abdurraqib](#). Write an 'I am not sorry' poem or pick a phrase between two slashes and use this as a starting point. If you use the poet's words or phrasing, make sure to write *after Hanif Abdurraqib* beneath the title before you share or publish this piece.

April 20th: Read ['Dorothy Wordsworth' by Jennifer Chang](#). Write a poem which includes a swear word and/or your own name.

April 21st: Read ['Kid, this is Iowa' by Jeffrey Bean](#). Write a poem which is titled 'Kid, this is _____'. Make sure to write *after Jeffrey Bean* beneath the title before you share or publish this piece.

April 22nd: Read ['Flight by Idrissa Simmonds'](#). Write a poem about flight or flying.

April 23rd: Read ['Gratitude' by Jon Davis](#). Take two minutes to write a list of things which annoy you and another list about things that make you happy. Choose one thing from each list to include in a poem.

April 24th: Read ['Scale by Helen Mort](#). Write a poem which uses the word 'scale'. This word has many meanings. If you use the poet's words or phrasing specifically, make sure to write *after Helen Mort* beneath the title before you share or publish this piece.

April 25th: Read ['Ah, Ah' by Joy Harjo](#). Write a poem which uses a sound in a significant way. Spell it out. This could be a yawn, a snore, a piece of music, a creeeeek, etc.

April 26th: Read ['Sax Burglar Blues' by Robert Walton](#). Write a poem which includes a theft or burglary.

April 27th: Read ['What the Living Do' by Marie Howe](#). Write about some small, insignificant joy.

April 28th: Read ['Naloxone' by William Brewer](#). Write a poem which uses the name of a medication or seeks to answer any of the questions in the piece. If you use the poet's words or phrasing specifically, make sure to write *after William Brewer* beneath the title before you share or publish your poem.

April 29th: Read ['Why Whales are back in New York City' by Rajiv Mohabir](#). Write a poem which includes migration of some kind and/or a sea creature.

April 30th: Read ['Transplant' by Andrew McMillan](#). Write a poem about a reminder or regret.