

Mary Todd Lincoln House Family Fun

Spring into Poetry



Mary Todd Lincoln liked poetry. There were many poetry books in her family's library, and she owned one named *Female Poets of America*, which contained over 200 poems by 79 writers.

One of those poems is "The Birth of the Flowers," written by Margaret Junkin. It includes the words on the next page. Give poetry a try by cutting up the words and arranging some of them to express an idea or feeling about spring.

Poems don't have to rhyme!

Haiku poetry originated in Japan. Often about seasons, haiku are three lines long. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables.

Mar-y Todd Lin-coln

1 2 3 4 5

Loves flow-ers and po-et-ry

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

But Abe most of all

1 2 3 4 5

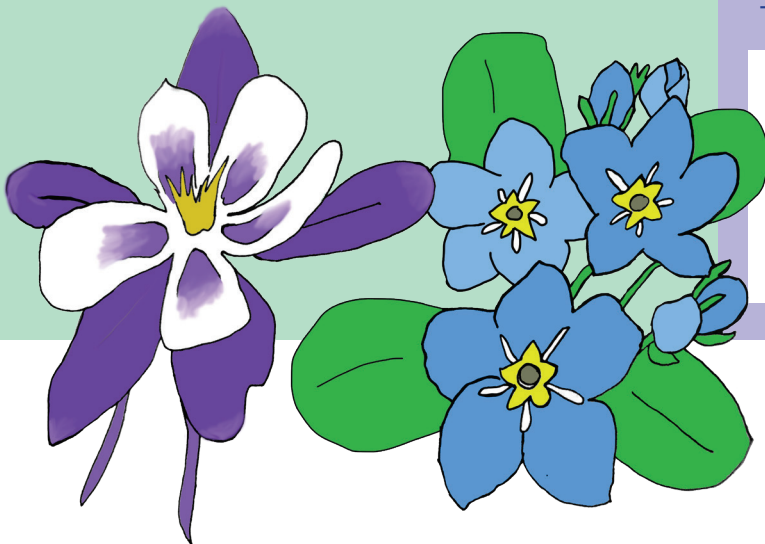
Acrostic poems are inspired by one word. Start a spring poem by writing each letter of the word **spring** on a separate line. Then write a word or phrase that starts with the letters on the lines.

S _____
P _____
R _____
I _____
N _____
G _____

Free verse poems do not have rhymes, rhythm, or other rules. They rely on carefully chosen words to make their point.

Make your own word kit

Grab a notebook and a pencil and take a poetry walk. Write down words that capture what you see, hear, smell, and feel. Then use those words to compose a poem.



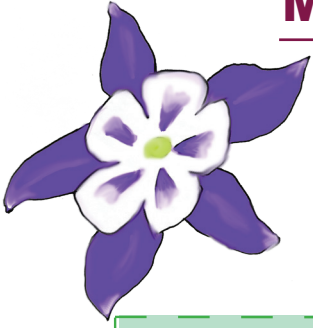
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Spring into Poetry 2



Try it!

Print this page on heavy paper and cut along the lines to make a word kit. Use the blanks to add words of your own.

a	days	home	soft
again	delicate	in	spring
air	drops	is	streams
among	eager	joyfulness	sunny
an	earth	kind	sweet
are	even	laugh	swing
at	fair	leafy	the
beautiful	flowers	leap	there
birds	forget-me-nots	lilies	trees
birth	free	loveliest	upon
blue-bird	from	meet	wake
blossoms	gayest	merry	welcome
blushing	gentler	moss	when
breeze	gifts	music	which
bright	give	nature	whispering
catch	glorious	now	wild
clear	gracefully	of	wind
columbine	green	on	with
come	happiness	sky	year
crimson	heart	shining	young

Websites to check out

www.poetry4kids.com/lessons/poetry-writing-lessons
poets.org

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